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No. 21

Nº 21

ISSN 1180-2987

## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Tuesday 12 May 1992

# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Mardi 12 mai 1992



Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday 12 May 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** On February 24 of this year the stunning news was delivered to the people of St Catharines and the people of Ontario that General Motors would be closing its foundry in St Catharines and part of the engine plant operation. It was estimated that over 3,000 jobs would be expected to disappear, along with the so-called indefinite layoffs that took place on March 1 of this year.

I have asked in this House on many occasions that the government of Ontario do everything within its power to be a positive force in terms of retaining future jobs in St Catharines and in Ontario in the automotive industry, and I continue to do so—being positive, of course, by ensuring that the hydro rates reflect only the cost of the production of hydro, by ensuring that the famous tax on auto workers, which is referred to as the gas guzzler tax, is withdrawn and by making sure that the business climate in the province is such that people wish to stay here.

But there are people who are particularly hit by this whom perhaps people have not been aware of, and those are the many apprentices who work at General Motors. I quote from the St Catharines Standard:

"Archie Maybee was in the middle of his apprenticeship to become a millwright at General Motors in St Catharines when he got the bad news. With only two years left in his training, he and 97 other apprentices were told Wednesday that they will indefinitely be laid off at the end of this month."

I call upon the Minister of Skills Development to provide the necessary funding in order that these individuals can continue this program on a simulated basis under the auspices of the Ministry of Skills Development within the community college setting.

### NURSES WEEK

**Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West):** May 11 to 17 is Nurses Week in Ontario, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the invaluable contribution nurses provide to the people of our province.

Nurses play a crucial role in maintaining our health care system. They work long hours, provide care to patients on a one-on-one basis and constantly make important decisions. As the largest group of health care providers in Ontario, nurses show deep personal commitment to their work and provide care that is second to none.

Nurses work in all sectors of our health care system, including hospitals, public health units, nursing homes, homes for the aged, Victorian Order of Nurses' units, medical clinics and industry. We have all depended on nurses

at one time or another and we should recognize the important contributions they make in a variety of settings.

Nursing has never been an easy profession, but it is becoming more and more demanding. Nurses are constantly expected to upgrade their skills and take on new responsibility.

The NDP government's decision to cap transfer payments to hospitals at 1% has also put pressure on nurses. It is estimated that 4,000 health care workers will lose their jobs in the upcoming year and that the majority of those will be nurses. But despite these pressures, nurses continue to provide high-quality health care in Ontario. I would urge all members and all citizens of this province to join with me in congratulating nurses for a job well done.

### BILL BOWES

**Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton):** I rise in the House today to pay tribute to one of my constituents. Last Friday I had the privilege of attending a dinner in honour of the retirement of Bill Bowes, deputy chief of police from the Lindsay police service.

It is particularly fitting that we commemorate his contribution to the life of Victoria county during Police Week. Under increasingly difficult circumstances the members of our police forces are called upon to serve the public with efficiency and decorum. Bill Bowes provides an example of an exemplary police officer, not only for those in Victoria county but for those throughout Ontario.

He is described by his colleagues and friends as a supportive, dependable and fatherly man. They say that he "always found the good in people" and that he had a "calming effect on people." He was "the man people turned to when they needed to talk."

After 40 years of service this distinguished man can now look forward to doing the things he likes to do, like golfing and fishing and just relaxing. He plans to travel with his wife, Nina, and is preparing for his daughter's upcoming wedding.

After 40 years of service this man, who is a credit to our community, deserves the best. I wish him and his family well. Also, it is my hope that other leaders in our community will continue to look to Bill Bowes as their role model.

### TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean):** The Minister of Education is dithering yet another day and keeping the Carleton board students out of school. Despite several breakdowns in mediation talks, he still wants the parties to negotiate.

In this strike, students and parents have been patient for a long time. Their patience has run out. Where was the back-to-work legislation yesterday? Today we are told that the minister will act tomorrow. What's the holdup, Minister?

Clearly the situation has dragged on for too long. Any additional strike day is too much. The board and teachers

have had ample time to settle. Obviously they have not been able to reach an agreement despite repeated attempts.

It is your obligation now, Minister, to protect the education of Carleton students. I call on you to introduce legislation this afternoon. My party is ready to move. There's absolutely no reason why this strike should continue for yet another day.

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#### AUTISM SERVICES

**Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North):** I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Community and Social Services to the lack of adequate services in my community for adults and their families with autism. The Waterloo-Wellington Autism Services organization has recently written to the minister, stating that the situation for adults with autism in our region has worsened rather than improved in the last 18 months. Several of the 60 adults identified by this organization are in immediate crisis. An exceptionally high proportion of adults with autism remain in institutions, while others are being forced by a lack of other options to apply to schedule 1 facilities as a last resort.

Waterloo-Wellington Autism Services has appealed to the minister for a commitment for funding for a five- or 10-year plan which will allow it to develop the kind of coherent, viable and cost-effective service in stages. I want to urge the minister to seriously consider these requests to ensure that necessary services and resources are provided to meet the needs of adults with autism in our region.

#### MINE DISASTER

**Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South):** I stand today in the House for an issue I think most of us have been watching in the media: the Westray coal mine in Nova Scotia. As people have been watching, some 11 miners have been killed, trapped underground. Another 15 are still missing and have not been found.

As a former underground worker at the McIntyre gold mine in Timmins I understand the feeling the families are going through, because of having seen that before, unfortunately, at first hand. It is not something we would like to see happen. Our thoughts and best wishes for those people in Nova Scotia, enduring this and going through this traumatic experience, are with them in a part of this.

I think it also brings us to the point that we have to remember we must do everything humanly possible as legislators in this Legislature to make the workplace a much safer place. We know over 200 workers are killed per year in Ontario—last year alone—and some tens of thousands are maimed or injured. I think it's upon us as legislators to keep that in mind. The cost of not doing something at times is quite dramatic. I ask members of the assembly to take the remaining 20 seconds in silence for those people in Nova Scotia.

The House observed a moment's silence.

#### RABIES

**Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming):** I would like to bring to the attention of the Legislature today the tremendous outbreak of rabies occurring in the district of

Timiskaming. So far this year we've had 100 cases of rabies confirmed in the Timiskaming district. This is the largest number of any northern district. Just to give you a comparison, Nipissing is number two in occurrences this year with five cases, so it is really out of control. According to government officials, and I'd like to quote one, "This is the most severe outbreak in a concentrated area we've ever seen."

I am very concerned about the health threat this poses to my constituents, domestic pets and livestock on our farms. To date, Agriculture Canada has spent \$200,000 testing and destroying livestock infected by rabies. OHIP has been billed over \$47,000 to date for inoculations for people who suspect they have come in contact with rabies. Not only is this outbreak costing a tremendous amount of money to control; it is also causing incredible anxiety in our communities.

Today I am calling upon the government to immediately commence a bait-drop program across the entire district of Timiskaming to minimize the spread of rabies next year. I agree that such a program will not have much immediate effect, but it has a good chance, according to officials, of reducing next year's outbreak. I realize the process is expensive, estimated to be about \$85,000 for the bait alone, but I believe this will be money well spent.

I also hope the Ministry of Natural Resources will approach local municipalities to help them with other inoculant programs via live-trapping animals and inoculating them where they pose a danger or threat. I am calling upon the government to act now.

#### POLICE WEEK

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** This week we celebrate Police Week. The dedication of our hardworking police forces within my riding of Dufferin-Peel should not go by unnoticed. The Caledon OPP, the Shelburne detachment of the OPP, the Orangeville Police Force and the Shelburne Police Force work together to protect and serve the residents of Dufferin-Peel.

Their task has become increasingly challenging with the lack of support and funding from the provincial government. They are operating with budget restrictions that are making their job increasingly difficult.

Some areas of our province don't even have 24-hour policing, a problem brought on by the continued budget cuts in this NDP government. This government continues to preach improved relations between the police forces and Ontario citizens, yet it is not willing to put the needed resources into education and training.

Notwithstanding the difficult conditions our police forces are faced with, they have introduced several invaluable initiatives within my riding of Dufferin-Peel that have resulted in our police working together with members of our community to make Dufferin-Peel a safer place. The introduction of Crime Stoppers and Neighbourhood Watch are two such examples. When given an opportunity, the community and police can work together to make our province proud again.

## QUEEN'S QUARTERLY

**Mr Gary Wilson (Kingston and The Islands):** I rise to share some good news about a journal that is published at Queen's University in Kingston. The journal is Queen's Quarterly, and the good news is that it has recently won two awards from the Conference of Learned Journals, a US-based association. The awards were for best design and significant editorial achievement. It is the first time a Canadian journal has won two awards in one year.

I have the spring 1992 issue with me, and I can tell you that it amply confirms the judges' opinion. This issue has as its theme the relationship between the citizen and the state, a subject of crucial importance. The eight writers who address this topic are drawn from the first rank of Canadian and international thinkers. They richly support the editor's objective of spreading academic discussion beyond the walls of the university to readers throughout Canada and abroad. But there's more. Essays, arts and letters, science, poetry, reviews—this list still does not exhaust the topics on the contents page.

The spring issue is also representative in being a feast for the eye as well as for the mind. Attractively illustrated and laid out, it delightfully shows why the journal won an award for design.

Our congratulations to editor Boris Castel and designer Peter Dorn.

I urge my colleagues and the viewing public to sample the delights of the Queen's Quarterly for themselves. It's found in many public libraries and bookstores, and certainly the publisher welcomes subscriptions.

Next year, Queen's Quarterly will be 100 years old. I think we can say with confidence that it has an exciting future in bringing the critical issues of the day to readers in an enjoyable manner.

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I seek unanimous consent for a brief tribute to a former officer of the House. I believe the parties would agree.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Agree? Agreed.

## DAVID CALLFAS

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** Recently the Legislative Assembly lost a very good friend, a friend of the House of many years. David Gerald Callfas, who used to sit at the table in front of us and was assistant to the predecessor of our present Clerk in the years 1968 to 1986, passed away peacefully on May 3. We of course pass along condolences to the family.

We all remember David Callfas as an individual who was extremely kind to everyone, a friendly individual, a very helpful individual. We all know that the table, as is the Chair, is neutral in this House. For this reason, when I was in opposition, as I was at that time, I particularly appreciated the advice that was provided to me as an individual member and a new member of the Legislative Assembly. I think all of us who sought his advice and his many years of learning—let's put it that way—were better members as a result of it. I believe this House operated in a fashion which was conducive to respect for one another as

a result of the kind of information he provided and the role he played in the Legislative Assembly.

To a certain extent, we often judge or draw certain conclusions when we look at an obituary and see where the family of the person has requested that any donations happen to go. In this specific case, it's to the Children's Wish Foundation. Any of us who knew David Callfas well would know that was in keeping with his own personality and his own concern about others in the community.

So on behalf of the Liberal Party, and I'm sure all members of the House who served at the time David was at the table, we express deepest sympathy to the family and regret at his loss.

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**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** I would like to associate the Progressive Conservative Party's feelings and sentiments with those of the member for St Catharines, who has expressed his sympathy to the family on behalf of the Liberal Party.

As a member of this Legislature during a period when David Callfas was here assisting us, I want to say to everyone that he was a very competent and a very good Assistant Clerk. He helped many of the members, and we will remember his help over the years he served with us.

I would like to express our deepest sympathies to his wife on the passing of David and we would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all his service to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

**Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader):** On behalf of the NDP caucus I'd like to join with the opposition parties in paying tribute to Mr Callfas. He served in the Legislature for about seven or eight of the years I was a member; he first began at the Legislature in 1968. I didn't work quite as closely with him as I have with officers since then, as I wasn't House leader back then, but I know there is a long tradition in this place of very professional and non-partisan staff. He certainly was in line with that tradition.

As the spokesperson for the Liberal Party said today, his kindness and friendliness in this place made this Legislature probably a better place than it would otherwise be if we didn't have people like David serve the Legislature and the people of the province. On behalf of the government I'd certainly like to offer our sympathies to the family and pay tribute to a long period of contribution to the democratic process on David's part in the Ontario Legislature.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I would like to thank the member for St Catharines, the member for Carleton and the government House leader for the kind and generous remarks you've made today. With the indulgence of the House, I too fondly remember the dedication Mr Callfas brought to his job, to this chamber and indeed to the assembly. Your remarks will be forwarded to his family. With them go our deepest sympathies for a person who served with honour and distinction this assembly of Ontario.

Statements by ministers.

**Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology):** What would have been certainly a joyous and good-news statement is somewhat dampened by the

news, which I've just heard, of David's passing away. I can say that when I was first elected in 1975, he was always there for all the new members elected in that particular election. He was of tremendous help to me as Chairman of committees over the years and a really decent human being.

## STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

### INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

**Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology):** The matter I rise on today is to provide details of several economic renewal initiatives of this government. These initiatives are an integral part of the government's plan, outlined in the budget, to encourage jobs, training and investment in Ontario. In addition, I would like to update members of the House on the progress of my ministry's industrial framework.

As members of the House are aware, my ministry is working with representatives of business, unions, universities, governments and other organizations to develop a paper on industrial policy. We hope to release the paper later this spring.

This paper will outline a framework on industrial policy for governments, business leaders, unions and communities. We believe the paper will provide a common ground for action by all parties in the public and private sectors.

It will reflect our values as a society. It will help strengthen competitive fundamentals, the things we need to do well in order to compete. It will be an Ontario-based industrial policy which will start the discussion around action and implementation. It will explain the need for our society to change the way we invest, the way our government works with companies and the way we manage change in the future.

As I've said before, this framework has a simple organizing principle: the idea of moving to higher value added economic activity. This is critical to the creation of long-lasting, highly skilled, well-paying jobs. As the members of the House know, job creation is the first priority of our government's budget.

With our industrial policy framework in mind, I would like to provide details of several initiatives that will help to create jobs and encourage investment.

First, as the Treasurer noted in his budget last month, we will introduce a sector partnership fund, a three-year, \$150-million funding commitment to all economic sectors, to move those sectors to higher value added activities. The fund will provide financial assistance for cooperative initiatives that have broad support from their sectors and will strengthen the competitive fundamentals for their sectors as a whole.

I have released today more information on the fund, on what it will do and how it will work. Our government is already consulting widely with the automotive, aerospace, plastics, food processing, tourism, furniture and forest products industries, among others. While my ministry is the lead ministry on this initiative and my ministry works directly with many sectors, at least 10 other ministries are involved and will coordinate participation of their relevant sectors.

The introduction of the sector partnership fund demonstrates a new direction of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology. In the future, MITT will place more emphasis on the importance of working with economic sectors, not just individual companies.

This change means that my ministry will work with business, labour, industry associations, universities and other specialized institutions to encourage higher productivity through entire sectors. We will encourage the formation of new linkages, information and technology transfers and new commercial relationships.

The government is not picking a list of winning sectors. Instead, we are prepared to work with any sector in Ontario that is prepared to strengthen its capabilities and identify useful sector projects. Opportunities for upgrading competitiveness and sophistication exist across the province.

This does not mean that the government is abandoning support for individual firms. The Ontario Development Corp, the Ontario International Corp, Small Business Ontario and various MITT programs will continue to provide support for individual companies.

However, we believe our new emphasis will help to improve productivity and competitiveness and that this is a wise use of public funds and a smart economic policy. We view these measures as a strong, clear signal to the business community that we are committed to improving the long-term business climate of this province.

In order to fuel this economic renewal process, new private sector investments will have to be encouraged. Ontario must be seen as a good place to invest and reinvest. The province has numerous advantages, including a highly skilled workforce and an excellent quality of life. Such factors are becoming increasingly important to firms' investment decisions. Ontario must build upon these strengths and must market them aggressively.

For that reason, our government will be upgrading our investment promotion, attraction and retention system by introducing a one-stop shopping service for investment. My ministry is putting in place this new system to seek out and facilitate investment and to manage requests to the provincial government in a professional and efficient way.

As a prominent part of the system, a new Ontario Investment Centre will be created. It will provide detailed and up-to-date information to investors who are choosing a site for new investment. The centre will give investors access to computer databases, interactive videos and electronic maps. Ontario communities will be invited to use the centre to showcase their infrastructures, industrial facilities and cultural assets. We expect the centre to be set up and running by the fall.

Furthermore, my ministry is establishing an evaluation program and advisory board for the Ontario investment and worker ownership program announced by the government last October. The evaluation program will assist the employee groups to retain professional advice for feasibility studies on employee ownership proposals. The advisory board will evaluate and recommend the approval of such proposals.

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Together with continuing work on the Ontario investment fund, these initiatives indicate that this government is listening to the business community and is committed to improving the investment climate in this province.

In coming weeks I will be providing further details on initiatives aimed specifically at benefiting the small business community.

First, we will introduce an initiative called Clearing the Path for Business Success, outlined in the supplementary budget paper on investment and economic renewal. This initiative will reduce the government paperwork faced by startup businesses.

A new Ontario innovation and productivity service will provide expert advice to small- and medium-sized firms on technology, management, marketing, organization and training issues. These programs are a direct result of the work of the parliamentary assistants committee for small business, chaired by my PA, Mr Norm Jamison.

Finally, I will be announcing enhancements to the Four Motors international technology network, which will strengthen Ontario's technology and commercial links to Germany, France, Spain and Italy.

These initiatives support our budget commitment to put women and men of Ontario back to work. Together with the capital works, housing and training initiatives of the other ministries, these measures will help to increase the long-term productivity and security of the Ontario economy.

In this increasingly complex world, Ontarians must change what we do, how we do it and how we relate to each other. If we make the right changes, we will increase our productivity, strengthen our international competitiveness and empower ourselves to determine our economic future according to our own needs and values.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Statements by ministers?

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** That does it; I'm crossing the floor.

**The Speaker:** Responses, the member for Mississauga West.

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** I'd hate to see us lose the member for St Catharines to that statement.

## RESPONSES

### INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** There are eight pages to this announcement, but I found one that he refused to read. It's the ninth page. It begins by saying that the Canadian Bond Rating Service lowered the province's credit a notch to AA from AA-plus, saying it expects the government's deficit to hit about \$11.1 billion this year.

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** You thought it was going to be \$15 billion.

**Mr Mahoney:** I think it will be higher than that.

The company is sceptical of the loud-mouth Treasurer, Floyd Laughren's ability to keep his deficit under control.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order. The member for Mississauga West should withdraw that.

**Mr Mahoney:** He's interjecting. I wish you'd keep order, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** I would appreciate it if you would withdraw that comment.

**Mr Mahoney:** It goes on to say on the ninth page of this statement that it marks the second straight year Ontario's NDP government has watched its credit rating slip following the release of its budget, and further, the Dominion Bond Rating Service in Toronto has put Ontario's long- and short-term debt on rating alert because it also has questions about the size of the deficit.

It seems to me that if you're going to give a minister's statement on industrial strategy, that you should at least make some reference, Minister, to the credit rating that you have allowed to slip in this province.

In the closing part of the statement on page 8, the minister says that we must "empower ourselves to determine our economic future." Minister, when you folks took office, the total debt of this province was about \$39 billion. Your projections take it to your figure of \$77 billion when you're finally relieved of the burden of governing, and perhaps as high as \$80 billion. If that's what you call, to use your words, empowering yourselves to determine our economic future, I fear for the future of all our children.

The comments made in this statement with regard to the ministry working with representatives of business, unions, universities, governments and other organizations to develop this policy are absolutely laughable.

The universities have been slashed to the quick. Colleges, facing a 24% request increase in enrolment, have had their budgets slashed and cut, and yet you purport to be the government that is promoting training. We know the college system can deliver that training, but you've abandoned them. How can you say you're working with them?

Other governments—talk to the municipal sector—are facing a 1% increase in transfer payments, facing their own budget problems, and yet you purport to be working with the government. Your Premier calls the federal government "the absconding debtor," and yet you purport to be working with that level of government. Let's face it, all you're doing is creating animosity, creating an atmosphere of confrontation with all other levels of government. And you actually stand there, Minister, and say in a statement that you're working with business, when business has been saying to you: "For God's sake, withdraw your reforms to the labour legislation. Listen to us."

You go on to say that you have consulted with the business community. That's true, you have, except that it's one-way consulting. They talk, and you just leave the table and don't do anything. At a time when you announce a \$150-billion funding commitment to all economic sectors, you're taking \$1 billion a year out of the economy in a tax grab. This is absolutely a joke. You're just packaging something up with some ribbons to try to confuse people

and get them to think you're actually doing something to announce some kind of industrial strategy.

You talk about one-stop shopping. I hope the first office you open is in Niagara Falls, New York. That's where it's needed for one-stop shopping for investment, because that's exactly where they're going. They're fleeing here, and you know it.

**Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology):** That is absolute bull. I dare you to ask me a question on that.

**Mr Mahoney:** Well, it's nice to see you get excited, you know. It's nice because we noticed how you were falling asleep while you were reading this. It's nice to see you get a little excited.

You announced an Ontario Investment Centre. Have you talked, Minister, to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, which for years has operated the Computerized Ontario Investment Network, known as COIN, where they put investors and investment opportunities together? It's been going on for years, and you come up with some fancy new Ontario Investment Centre. I wonder what the cost will be for that. Why don't you work with the private sector, which already has the infrastructure in place?

You talk about an evaluation advisory board for investment opportunities for workers. That's crisis management so that workers have somewhere to go to find out how they can bail out the company to save their jobs. Give us an announcement that means something, not just puffery and political foolishness.

**Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South):** I'm afraid the only jobs that are going to be created by this announcement are for the people who wrote it and the people who spent all the time typing the eight pages of this garbage that came out here today. Here we've got lists, pages and pages of jobs being lost. In my own riding we have Tridon, 550 jobs, and nothing in here to help them. The problem is that you've been overtaxing, overspending, overgoverning, overregulating and overlegislating in an oversimplistic approach to public policy for far too long.

Here are the Ontario Chamber of Commerce's recommendations. This is what it said, and nothing in there from that. In February it gave you recommendations on the economy, on your terrible Ontario Labour Relations Act, on pay equity, on employment equity, on the provincial deficit, on Ontario health costs. There is nothing in there for those people. We may as well throw these things away that they produce for you.

On the next page they produce other recommendations: the Workers' Compensation Board, \$10 billion in deficit: \$45,000 for every company. There is nothing about this in that statement. You've driven the private sector out of day care with your ridiculous policies, out of housing with your housing policies. The private sector that does the job faster, better, cheaper and at no expense to the taxpayer is being thwarted, shut out and penalized by you socialists.

The only people who are going to be happy are the people in Buffalo, New York, because Buffalo Bob strikes again. The only way the people of this province are going to get any opportunity is if they boot you people out.

I refer to some of the job losses that are in here. This particular minister produces this. He talks about some of the things—I have met with German bankers who say, "We're telling people, 'Don't come to the province of Ontario: 20% tax advantage versus the United States.'" We're the highest-taxed province in Canada, the highest-taxed jurisdiction in North America.

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Your Premier's over in Japan. Nobody wants to invest until you clean up your act here; 88% of the businesses say they don't want your labour relations in there. There's nothing in this statement. Talk to your buddy beside you. The single-biggest factor to driving investment out is your crazy labour relations. It is nothing but a cynical payback to the big labour unions that support you.

I have sat in this ministry, which I thought would be a good-time ministry. The most depressing part of this particular critic's responsibility is going around and talking to businesses that are suffering day after day because of this government's socialist policy. There's nothing in here. The only people who are going to survive and get any jobs out of this are the people who created it and the people who typed it, nobody else. You aren't helping small businesses.

In the recommendations from the chambers they talk about the tax structure. They say the two biggest factors are the taxes and the regulations. Your Treasurer turns around with \$1 billion in new taxes. That will wipe out anything you do with regard to helping it.

Very clearly this statement we have waited so long for, so patiently for is a complete and absolute waste. This minister should be embarrassed. We should bring in a new minister and get rid of him, so we can have somebody in here who is going to do something to bring jobs and prosperity back to Ontario, because obviously this minister is a complete and absolute failure.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** It's very distressing that when the announcement comes about the credit rating for this provincial government not a word is uttered by this government, this government that in fact stood and chastised any other government that was put on credit alert. Mr Treasurer, it's disappointing that you cannot stand up and defend your budget against the charges of these credit-rating companies that your deficit is miscalculated and misstated.

This government just doesn't seem to understand. Your taxes are too high. You've increased spending by 20% in two years. You've increased the deficit by \$23 billion. You're out of touch. The only way you're going to attract industry to this province is by taking steps to reduce the taxes, recover from this deficit you've foisted on the public and examine your spending habits.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology standing up here and announcing empty words and rhetoric will not attract one business, will not attract one job, will not create any wealth in this province. The only thing this minister could do that would attract any business or wealth is resign.

## ATTENDANCE OF MINISTERS

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Referring to standing order 1(b), I'd like to point out to the Speaker, as he is aware, that a constituent of mine by the name of Renee Goldfinger is in the Speaker's gallery today observing the precedents of the Legislature and parliamentary tradition.

Renee is aware that question period is the opportunity for members of the opposition to hold the government accountable. Yesterday the Speaker ruled that he could not require members of the cabinet to be here to answer questions. I'd like to ask, Mr Speaker, what do you suggest I say to Renee and the other members of Ontario about the fact that 50% of the cabinet is not here today? In fact, there's only one member on the front bench to answer questions.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** To the member for Oriole, first of all, I think she has welcomed this young person to our midst, and that's certainly appropriate. She may also want to say to the young person that indeed a similar point was raised yesterday and that I undertook to take a look at it and report back later. Of course that's what will occur.

It is now time for oral questions and the Leader of the Opposition.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

## RETAIL STORE HOURS

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** My question's for the Solicitor General. This government's conflicting signals about Sunday shopping continue on and on. We know the government caucus discussed this issue at some length today. I would just ask the Solicitor General whether the caucus reached a conclusion to support the changes that have already been promised to the retailers and when we can expect the announcement.

**Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General):** To the Leader of the Opposition, I very much appreciate this question. Hardly a day goes by that I wouldn't feel rather left out if this question didn't come across the floor. I can simply only—

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** At least she didn't have to read that statement.

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** No, that's right.

The law is the law. It's well known what the amendments were. I believe the members opposite well know the situation. I can add to the commentary I gave yesterday that there was some discussion in caucus today with respect to the issue. Any discussions the government is having are ongoing. That is simply where it rests.

**Mrs McLeod:** I can assure the Solicitor General that we'll keep asking the questions as long as the government keeps refusing to make a decision.

Yesterday after question period the Solicitor General said, "If there are alterations, I would hope that the government would come to them in the near future." I don't think it's helpful for this kind of speculation to go on endlessly, yet the speculation goes on and on. The retailers are obviously promised some changes in the Sunday shopping

legislation, then the Solicitor General says in the House that there are no changes planned, and then outside the House he says we should have alterations in the near future.

When will the Solicitor General and this government make a decision and let all of us know what they intend to do, and will it be before this weekend?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** No, the government has always encouraged open and public debate on this particular issue. That was evidenced by the discussions and public hearings that were held throughout Ontario and in fact in the public meetings that were held right in this Legislature preceding the amendments being brought to this House. The amendments have been passed. The law enforcement agencies have their direction. We very much appreciate and support the fact that retailers chose not to break the law and to continue to be good corporate citizens.

In terms of expanding on my comment about the government monitoring this shift in public opinion, we continue to do so. There is ongoing discussion on this issue, as there is with all others. At any given time that there is an alteration to be made from what has been adopted, we'll so advise you, Mr Speaker, and the House.

**Mrs McLeod:** This is not an open debate. Yes, the government made a decision. It brought in legislation, but it's obviously still discussing it. It's clear that the decision isn't final even in their own minds. This is simply a silly shell game that this government is playing with the public of Ontario.

The retailers across the province indicated last week that in defiance of the law they would be opening their stores on Sunday. In response, somebody in the government quietly said to those retailers: "Hold off. We're going to bring in changes to our legislation. We've got the wrong law. We can't enforce it anyway. We'll change it." Now the Solicitor General says, "No, we're not changing it at all." So once again the retailers are indicating that they are going to move to open their stores this Sunday if the government doesn't announce its plan.

When will this government stop playing games? When will it stop whispering to people in corners, make a decision and get on with it?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** The government did in fact get on with it, and the process the government has adopted is working, quite frankly, notwithstanding the claims by opposition members just a few months ago that the Ontario Municipal Board process wouldn't work, that it would be cumbersome, that it would all be dragged down and that there would be an endless time. None of that has occurred. The appeals have been heard, decisions have been rendered and in fact the law is being complied with and is working.

That is not to say, though, that the government is oblivious to public opinion. There are discussions going on with respect to it, but I don't think anyone should speculate there will necessarily be changes. But to be fair, we have to admit to the fact that there are ongoing discussions. They will continue until such time as the government has determined that there will be any alteration.

**Mrs McLeod:** There's clearly no point in pursuing that any further this afternoon.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** New question?

#### UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** I'll ask a question of the Treasurer. In his budget the Treasurer said that job gains are expected to resume in the spring, but instead of growing, as our Treasury critic indicated yesterday, Ontario lost 17,000 jobs in April. If you add those to the 49,000 jobs that were lost in March, we see our jobless rate going up to 10.6% from the seven-year high we hit the month before. The losses are just continuing. Marks and Spencer today announced that it would be closing 10 of its stores in Ontario.

I wonder how the Treasurer can speak about economic recovery even as his credit rating is once again lowered because of lack of confidence in his financial accounting. How can the Treasurer predict an economic recovery when the job losses just continue from day to day?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** There were a number of allegations in the leader of the official opposition's question, including reference to the downgrading. I assume that she wants me to respond to that aspect as well. What happened is that one of the Canadian bond rating agencies lowered its rating to the level of the other three bond rating agencies, AA, which means that we are now one level lower than British Columbia, at the same level as Alberta and above every other province in the country. So I think you should put into perspective just what our bond rating is.

On the question of jobs and the unemployment rate—  
Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order, the member for Etobicoke West.

1420

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I am surprised that the opposition would ask a very serious question and then try to shout me down when I try to give an answer, but I'll try to soldier on. The fact is that when the budget was brought down on—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I'll try to answer what I think is a serious question dealing with a very serious matter, namely, the level of unemployment in the province and the job losses that were announced fairly recently. That is of enormous concern to the government, and I'm sure it is to all members in this House. But I think to imply that, because the budget was brought down on April 30 and here we are less than two weeks later, there's some kind of link between the unemployment rate and the budget is really a fanciful conclusion that the leader of the official opposition has drawn.

**Mrs McLeod:** I'm a little bit taken aback by the Treasurer's response. This is this government's second budget. This government's been in office for 18 months. This recession's been going on from the time they took

office. How can they suggest that we shouldn't be looking for immediate responses to a desperate economic situation and to the people's need for jobs?

I'm afraid that sometimes the statistics about unemployment rates and debt and job losses are just so great that we can be almost numbed by the numbers. But the reality is that people are frightened. They're worried about their futures. People who have jobs are worried about whether they're going to have their jobs tomorrow. Many others are desperate to find jobs. When people are desperate, they respond in desperate ways. We saw some of that last week.

I would ask the Treasurer to tell us what new jobs will be in place this month and what immediate signals of economic recovery we might expect to see to assure people that this steady loss of jobs is ending. When will the unemployment rates go down instead of up?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** The leader of the official opposition built into her question once again some comments that I feel I must respond to. I think that in fact she's depreciating the value of her question by some of her preamble, but because I have to respond, it was the leader of the official opposition who implied there was a link between this last budget. It wasn't I who made that link; it was the leader of the official opposition.

Second, I would remind the leader of the official opposition that we have a recession here in this province that's not unique to the province of Ontario. It's North American; it's not simply in Ontario. Obviously any government that's in office at the time has to be concerned about the level of unemployment, particularly when it goes up. But we did, in this budget, create and support 90,000 jobs. We did that very specifically through three capital funds and the base capital budgets in all the various ministries. That is a commitment to job creation in this province. I can tell the leader of the official opposition that never in the history of this province has there been the commitment to capital spending that this government brought forward in this budget this year.

**Mrs McLeod:** You simply can't ignore reality. People in this province are losing jobs on a day-to-day basis. They're losing jobs because of this government's policies, because of its mismanagement and its misdirection.

Let me turn specifically to the university and college students who are out of school as of today looking for jobs. Yesterday the Treasurer told us about the job programs that exist for students, but what we hear is that those jobs are not yet in place for the students who are hunting for something right now.

I do not want the Treasurer to list the number of summer job opportunities that his government plans to create. I don't want to hear about the plans to develop the jobs. I don't want to hear about the coordinator who has been appointed. I want the Treasurer to give us the assurance that the same number of jobs will exist for students as existed for students last year under the job creation programs of this government. I want to know that the funding for those jobs, for the programs the Treasurer indicated

yesterday would be in place, is actually in place now and that the hiring for those programs is taking place right now.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** The leader of the official opposition and the Liberal Party of Ontario seem to think that when the private sector lays off 260,000 people in this province over the period of a year and a half or two years the Ontario government can pick up the entire slack of 260,000 jobs. Second, the leader of the official opposition seems to think, as she stands in her place day after day, that we can lower the deficit, reduce taxes and spend a lot more money on job creation. Get into the real world, Ms McLeod.

#### TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Education. Mr Minister, at 7:15 pm last night I heard you come out of the policy and priorities meeting here at the Legislature and tell the media that the Education Relations Commission had found a ruling of jeopardy to the some 15,000 students in the Carleton Board of Education. You then indicated that you were going to dither further. You were going to bring the parties together once again to try to work out an agreement. Would you share with this House the exact ruling of the Education Relations Commission?

**Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education):** The advisement I received from the commission was that in its view the students' year was in jeopardy and that therefore the government should contemplate legislation to bring the teachers back to work.

**Mr Sterling:** It was my understanding from the news conference, in which you gave more information than you have in your answer, that they also recommended that you dither further with regard to the settlement of the issues between the two parties. Is it your intention, Mr Minister, to table a bill this afternoon so that, in fairness to members of the opposition, who have considered this issue and are quite willing to cooperate with the government to see quick passage of the bill, they will have the opportunity to look at it and see if in fact you are dealing with the issues, including the final settlement of the dispute between the board and the teachers in the Carleton board area?

**Hon Mr Silipo:** No, I will not be tabling a bill in the Legislature this afternoon. I indicated yesterday, as the member well knows, and I can indicate today, as he's reiterated today, that we've asked Mr Vic Pathe to go in and speak with the parties in an attempt to see if a settlement is possible. We've asked him to report to us by noon tomorrow, and I've indicated we will be prepared to proceed with legislation tomorrow afternoon if there isn't a resolution to the dispute. I don't consider that dithering; I consider that carrying out our responsibilities in a responsible fashion and encouraging to the last possible possibility the resolution of the dispute between the parties, which I think every member of this House would agree, and the parties themselves have indicated to me, would obviously be the most preferable solution.

1430

**Mr Sterling:** There's a process in this Legislature, as you know, and the process permits one member of this Legislature, one out of the 130 members of this Legislature, to delay the passage of that bill at least one day. While our party is solidly behind any move which would get the teachers back to school, you, Mr Minister, have promised the public in Ottawa-Carleton and the Carleton board area that the kids are going to be back in school on Thursday, whereas one member of this Legislature can stop that bill dead in its tracks tomorrow afternoon.

We would like that bill passed tomorrow afternoon so the kids can be back in school on Thursday morning. Is it not the only responsible thing for you to do today, to table that bill so at least the members of these two caucuses will have the opportunity to review what you're planning within that piece of legislation so we can cooperate tomorrow afternoon and make certain the children and young men and women get back to school on Thursday morning as you have promised the Ottawa-Carleton area?

**Hon Mr Silipo:** Let me just say to the member first of all that I didn't write the rules of the House, but I understand what he's saying, and let me assure him there will be every possible cooperation from this side of the House if we get to the eventuality tomorrow afternoon of having to introduce legislation. I'm quite sure that through the House leaders there can also be the appropriate discussions in terms of making sure the opposition is aware of the contents of the legislation, which is being drafted as we speak.

#### RETAIL STORE HOURS

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** I have a question for the Deputy Premier. In the absence of leadership from your Premier, in the absence of leadership from you as Deputy Premier, in the absence of leadership from the Solicitor General, in the absence of leadership from your cabinet—

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order.

**Mr Harris:** —in the absence of all of that leadership and with the dithering and the speculation on Sunday shopping, a suggestion came forward that you or your cabinet or the Premier's office may be considering a novel idea for your party: a free vote.

Mr Deputy Premier, given that for my caucus virtually every vote in this Legislature is a free vote—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. Would the leader take his seat, please.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Leader of the third party.

**Mr Harris:** Given that since I have become leader I cannot think of a vote by my caucus that has not been a free vote—I don't believe there is one. In some confidence motions we certainly hope none of our caucus members actually supports the direction of the government, but there certainly has not been a whipped vote since I've become leader. Given that, we welcome the opportunity. Mr Deputy

Premier, if in fact you're planning a free vote, could you tell us if that is the case, and if so, can we expect to move expeditiously with a free vote on the issue of Sunday shopping so our businesses can get back to doing business and our workers can get to work?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier):** I understand the leader of the third party's yearning for leadership. I appreciate that.

I would say he has referred to something terribly speculative, namely, whether there would be a free vote on a bill that is not before us. There's no such bill, so I'm not too sure I can provide the leader of the third party any comfort when it is so highly speculative and hypothetical.

**Mr Harris:** Can the Deputy Premier tell this Legislature if any official of the Premier's office made a deal with any retailer in this province and held out some hope and expectation that there would be a response from this government on the issue of Sunday shopping?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** While I am not employed in the Premier's office, to my knowledge no such promise, deal or arrangement was ever made.

**Mr Harris:** I wonder if the Deputy Premier, in the absence of any assurances for retailers and workers or for students who are desperately looking for work, facing an increase in their tuition fees of three or four times the rate of inflation, thanks to you in your capacity as Treasurer, and given the uncertainty with businesses—at one point a Solicitor General suggesting that the police may be too busy to prosecute the Sunday shopping law that was on the books—given all that uncertainty out there, I wonder if the Deputy Premier can tell us one of two things: Does he or his caucus or his cabinet plan to bring forward a definitive statement, one way or the other, on Sunday shopping? If not, I wonder if the Treasurer could tell us if the concept of a free vote is foreign to him and his party.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** First of all, I don't believe the remarks attributed to the Solicitor General in fact are correct. I don't believe—

**Mr Harris:** I heard him on the radio. I think it was his voice.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I'm not denying the fact that you possibly heard voices. I'm just saying I don't believe it was the Solicitor General.

It really would be inappropriate to speculate on a bill that's not even in draft form. I don't even know there's going to be a bill. The law is in place now, and I, along with the Solicitor General and everybody else in the government, expect the law to be obeyed.

1440

#### TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau):** My question is to the Minister of Education. Mr Minister, one day you say you will and one day you say you might. Yesterday our party was asked if we would consider standing down our opposition day if you decided to bring in legislation regarding the situation in Carleton. We very cooperatively agreed, but that offer was not taken, Mr Minister. You continue, as you did last week, yesterday, the week before

last, to say that you are looking at options, that you are exploring every single available option, that you are going to present these options to the cabinet.

I want to ask the minister this: He has held out the possibility of legislation, something he says he would have to resort to. He has promised legislation. I want to know from the minister when he thinks, really thinks, the students in Carleton will return to their classes.

**Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education):** I thought I had been quite clear over the last few hours, since yesterday, in terms of the statements I made and what I reiterated earlier in answer to a question. I certainly appreciate the discussions that have taken place between the House leaders with respect to this afternoon. That I think was a situation of the House leader doing his job with respect to the other House leaders and what might happen.

We clearly have decided as of last night to make one last effort to see if the strike can be resolved through mediation with somebody of the experience of Mr Vic Pathe talking to the parties. I've indicated very clearly that we'll be prepared to proceed with legislation tomorrow afternoon. That's why we set the time line of noon tomorrow for Mr Pathe to report back to us, and that's our intent. We will be ready to proceed with legislation tomorrow afternoon if it's necessary.

**Mrs O'Neill:** The minister really didn't answer my very simple question: When? He wouldn't even give any projection, but I'll go on to another supplementary and maybe he will find that easier to answer.

The students are asking, the parents are asking, the community is asking and I'm asking how long we have to wait before the secondary students in Carleton are given their right to their education. They are now in an untenable situation. Their education has been judged to be in jeopardy. You have used those very words yourself; you stated they were presented to you last night. They are in danger of losing their year, Mr Minister. You know that and I know that. You've stated your interests. I hope they are your concerns. You said, "My primary interest very clearly is the students." You said, "No matter how this issue is resolved, the year for the students will be protected."

You have addressed the issue of the school year. Will you make the extension of the school year a condition of settlement? Will you make the extension of the school day, as you have mentioned on two occasions, a condition of settlement? Will those two remedies that you have suggested be part of the legislation? Mr Minister, we have to know how you are thinking. The people in Carleton, in the community, must know. You talk a lot of rhetoric. Please help us.

**Hon Mr Silipo:** First of all, to go back to the earlier point in terms of the concerns around the students and when they might be back in the classroom, quite clearly, if we are dealing with legislation tomorrow afternoon and if that legislation can be passed, then there's nothing to prevent the students from being back in school on Thursday morning. I don't know how much clearer we can be about that.

In terms of the school year, I've also made it very clear that I will do whatever is necessary, even if that means

extending school days from now till the end of the year, to make sure students don't lose the year. That doesn't have to be tied, as I am sure the member well knows, as a condition to the settlement, because as Minister of Education I have the right to approve a restructured calendar from the school board or not to approve something I don't believe is appropriate. In fact, that is what is happening now. We are looking at that. There are discussions that will take place with the school board. We will do whatever has to be done to make sure the school year is protected.

#### PENSION FUNDS

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** I have a question for the Treasurer. In last month's budget, you deferred approximately \$500 million in government contributions to pension funds for government employees and teachers, I believe. Following the budget and in the ensuing days, I was a little bit surprised, given that a minimum deferral of about three months on \$500 million would cost the pension funds perhaps \$10 million to \$12 million in interest, that we had not heard any reaction from the teachers' associations, because that pension money is their money, and that we hadn't heard any reaction from the government employees.

Could you tell this House if you made a deal with the employees and the teachers, on whose behalf these funds are paid by the government, to offset the loss of perhaps some \$10 million to \$12 million in interest?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** Yes, that is indeed the case. As the money will not be forwarded on January 1, as we will rather, as part of a package of astute cash management for the province, delay the allocation of that money from January 1 to April 1, I think it's only fair that the interest will be paid on it. Otherwise I think it really would be inappropriate and arbitrary on the part of the government.

**Mr Harris:** I would ask you, Treasurer: Other than fudging the books, so to speak, if the cost is going to be there anyway; other than trying to create an illusionary figure, perhaps for the bond-rating agencies or the public of this province, if the cost is going to be there anyway, could you tell us what advantage there is to the province in deferring this payment? If in fact you've cut a deal with the employees to make up the difference, then could you tell this House exactly how much that deal you made is going to cost the taxpayers of this province?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I don't want to be too homespun in my response to the leader of the third party, but I'll try to put it in the context of an ordinary family. If a family is having cash management difficulties in any given year and needs to buy a new car, then I don't think there is anything unusual about fixing up the car for three months and waiting till then to buy the new car.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order. Treasurer.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** It really is simply a case of astute cash management. I think the leader of the third party misses—

**Mr Harris:** How much money? What's the cost?

**Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Government House Leader):** Let him answer.

**Mr Harris:** I'm waiting for the answer. You didn't answer. What was the cost?

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Mr Speaker, I really would very much like to respond to the very serious question. The leader of the third party should understand that if we had paid out that money on January 1 rather than on April 1, in view of the size of our deficit we would have been paying money on that in borrowed funds anyway, only it would have been borrowed from somebody else. There's nothing mysterious about it. It is a question of to whom we pay the interest on that borrowed money. It is simply a case of deciding to pay that money on April 1 rather than January 1. That is money we will not be spending this fiscal year. It's as plain and simple as that.

1450

#### AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

**Mr Brad Ward (Brantford):** My question is for the Minister of Financial Institutions. Minister, you can recall that last fall our government made the very tough but pragmatic decision not to proceed with public auto insurance. We based that decision on a number of reasons. Part of the reason was that the reform package we felt we could introduce would provide lower premiums while expanding benefits for innocent accident victims.

Minister, I'm receiving some questions from the people of Brantford. I'd appreciate it if you could advise this House as well as the driving public or the people of Brantford as to when the auto insurance reforms that were discussed and presented will be fully implemented by our government.

**Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions):** I thank the member for Brantford for the question, although I'm not in a position to predict precisely when we'll be in a position to implement the reforms. The member knows that the package was introduced in December. We're still hoping to do second reading this spring, to see that package out for public hearings in a committee over the course of the summer and hopefully to have third reading some time during the fall and implementation to follow very quickly on third reading.

**Mr Ward:** I'm sure the opposition will give its full cooperation because I'm sure it wants these benefits for the driving public as well. Until that happens, I'm receiving some calls—not many, but some—from my constituents who have experienced an increase in their auto insurance premiums or have not received any rebate whatsoever. Can the minister give any advice to this House as to what action he may or may not be able to take to resolve their concerns?

**Hon Mr Charlton:** The question the member raises can be answered in one of basically three different ways. The reference he made to rebates, there's only one company that I'm aware of that has taken the rebate approach. I believe that was State Farm. Other companies have taken the approach of applying to the pension commission for

reductions in the rates they will charge in their next round of billing. Better than 50% of the industry has in fact applied for rate reductions that average about 5%, and people will start to see those rate reductions in their next set of billings.

The third comment is simply that individuals who have received an increase may or may not have received it as a result of an increase in overall rates that are charged by a company. It may also, in individual cases, have something to do with their own policies, their own driver performance and perhaps accidents or violations that they've had.

#### TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** I want to follow up on the response of the Minister of Education to the last question that was asked. Mr Minister, both yesterday in the House in response to a question I asked about the concern for students and the jeopardy of their school year and in response to the question the member for Ottawa-Rideau has just asked, the minister seems to have made some assurances that the students' year will not be jeopardized and that he will in some way find means of extending the school year or extending the school day in order to ensure that the students are not in jeopardy.

I've not had long enough to go over my somewhat late memory of the Education Act, but I'm not aware of any permission or any authority given to the minister under the act to provide any of those kinds of assurances. I would ask the minister on what legal basis he feels he could act in the way he has described acting in the House today.

**Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education):** Certainly. I've been proceeding on the basis of advice I've received from my legal officials in the ministry. On that basis, it's my understanding that in a situation where's there been a strike or other kind of work stoppage it's the responsibility of the school board to submit to the minister for approval a restructured school year to deal with the rest of the school year and to show within that how it proposes to make up for the time that's been lost.

It's because the minister, in my understanding, has the right to approve or disapprove of that proposal that therein lies the power the minister has to indicate very clearly the kinds of things I would expect to see happening in order to ensure that the school year is protected.

**Mrs McLeod:** That does constitute a clarification and also is in direct contrast to the answers—and I will check Hansard—which I believe I heard earlier this afternoon, and it would seem to me to be in direct contrast to the answer I was given in response to my question yesterday.

Quite clearly the minister has just now said that he cannot provide the reassurances around the extension of the school year, the extension of the school day or the assurance that a school year is not in jeopardy for students. He can act to approve recommended changes from a school board. If my memory of the Education Act is correct—and it may well be faulty; it's been some years since I was actively involved with it—only the principal of a school can actually recommend promotion of individual students.

I raise the issue and we've come back to the question because in our questions on this issue we have wanted to keep the concerns of the students front and foremost. We have asked the minister what action he will take in a situation that is becoming increasingly more urgent, and yes, every 24-hour period counts.

We understand the minister has now received advice from the Education Relations Commission that the students are indeed in jeopardy. We've asked the minister why he is not responding with an even greater sense of urgency. We cleared the legislative table through agreement with the House leaders so the legislation could come in today. This minister should not be giving false assurances. He should be acting in a way that is totally within his authority. I would ask him why he has not brought in that legislation today.

**Hon Mr Silipo:** The Leader of the Opposition started off dealing with the school year and then went on talking about the legislation. Let me just say, first of all, that having heard the concerns expressed across the floor today I will obviously check one more time to be sure that the advice I've been given and I've been functioning on is appropriate. If there's any doubt whatsoever in that, then I will do whatever is necessary in terms of the legislation even, if that's required, to make sure we carry forward and carry through with the commitment I've made to ensure the school year for the students is not jeopardized. I don't think there's any disagreement between this side of the House and that side of the House on that issue.

Let me assure the Leader of the Opposition that it's an issue I will certainly pursue one more time in making sure, as I say, that the advice I've been given so far and that I've been functioning under is correct. If there's any doubt about that, we'll deal with it. There's no question about it.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** New question, the member for Markham.

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** No doubt the board's going to act in the best interests of the students, that's for sure.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL TAX

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** I have a simple question for the Treasurer. I wonder if the Treasurer can tell the difference between—Mr Treasurer, your attention—a can of beer, a can of pop and a can of juice.

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** How about a can of worms?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** Yes, I am one of the last living experts on the differences among those three cans.

**Mr Cousens:** Well, the answer goes to the Liberals. I heard Steve Mahoney say, "It's a can of worms." That is the difference, because one of these cans has been singled out and taxed for the sake of the environment.

The way I see it, your budget was quick to single out beer cans, but if beer cans can pose a hazard to the environment, then other cans are equally hazardous and should be subject to the same tax. After all, over 80% of beer cans are recycled now so there's no need to stress recycling initiatives.

Increasing the environmental tax on beer cans to 10 cents will give the government \$55 million for environmental initiatives. However, there's a lot of concern that this tax will be like the Liberal tire tax: a sham with collected taxes not being used for the intended purpose. The tax might well be a form of deficit fund-raising or it may be a type of environmental protectionism from invading American beer.

Could you, Mr Treasurer, tell us why you increased the tax on a product that is already subject to the 3Rs and what environmental initiatives will be generated by the \$55 million?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** There is no question that the environmental levy is being done to encourage people to switch from cans to refillable bottles. I should be happy to pass on to the Ministry of the Environment as well the concern the member has and the fact that I think I heard him say he would support a 10-cent environmental levy on all pop cans as well as beer cans. I don't want to put words in his mouth, but I think that was implied in the member's questions and I'll be happy to pass that on to the Ministry of the Environment, which is responsible for the whole question of an environmental levy on pop cans.

1500

#### RENT REGULATION

**Mr Will Ferguson (Kitchener):** My question is to the Minister of Housing. The minister will recall that when Bill 4 was originally introduced in this House the intent of the bill was for the first time to provide some real protection to tenants against extremely large increases in rent.

The minister will also recall that at the time the bill was introduced the opposition claimed, rather loudly and long, that the bill would never, ever withstand a court challenge.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order. Would the member take his seat.

The member for Kitchener.

**Mr Ferguson:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

My question is to the Minister of Housing. The minister will know that when Bill 4 was originally introduced—just in case the members of the opposition forget what that is, it is the first progressive piece of legislation that afforded real protection to tenants here in this province that many on the other side of the House now are claiming some responsibility for—the opposition claimed at the time that it would never withstand a court challenge.

Last week a rather important decision, referred to as the Moretta case, was made that in fact did uphold the law. Could the minister comment on it, particularly on how it's going to relate now to tenants and landlords in Ontario?

**Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing):** Many members will be aware that a judgement was made last week in the Court of Appeal and it affected the phased-in rent increases that had been claimed on the basis of financial loss, which Bill 4 had voided. That was upheld in the court and the court said that Bill 4 was crystal clear in its intent.

**Mr Ferguson:** Just so that I'm clear and everybody else is clear, particularly as it relates to the tenants who are

going to be affected in Waterloo as well as the tenants in St Catharines, this in effect will mean they're going to have a positive outcome on this matter.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** Yes. The tenants at 300 Regina Street North in Waterloo and at 383 and 385 Vine Street in St Catharines, whose landlord was Mr Moretta, will be eligible for rent rebates. I've asked that the rent offices in those two locations provide tenants—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. The member for York Centre, please come to order.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** —with all the information they will need to get access to those rebates to which they're legally entitled.

**The Speaker:** New question.

#### COLLEGE ENROLMENTS

**Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean):** My question is to the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Minister, students and the unemployed are getting hit from all sides, including from your government. Summer jobs are extremely hard to get, and for the few lucky ones who do get summer jobs, you have cut their OSAP payments. If people can't find a job and they want to upgrade their skills, they're getting stuck on lengthy waiting lists for admission to colleges.

At Loyalist College, for example, as my colleague the member for Quinte pointed out to me last week, applications are up by 25% over last year. Of course we're all familiar with the story in the Toronto Star today.

Minister, what is your message to the students and to the unemployed who are on long admission waiting lists for the colleges? Are you telling them to forget about getting into colleges? Are you telling them to forget about finding a job? Or do you have any message of hope?

**Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Colleges and Universities):** In response to the doomsayer opposite, let me at least observe that in contrast to some of his previous comments about access being inhibited by increasing fee levels, the fact that we have a 26% increase in enrolments going into colleges suggests that the fees have had no impact whatsoever on access. In fact, it might have been an encouragement, one could even argue from that evidence.

I want to say to the member opposite that he knows very well that the college funding formula and the university funding formula are enrolment-driven, that the institutions get money for every student who goes into those institutions. We added a 2% increase and a transitional fund on top of that to help them cope with additional pressures that are coming. There are laid-off employee programs that we have in place for some regions, and so on.

We're trying our best in a very difficult situation to meet the needs of people who themselves have great problems and therefore are going to the colleges and universities to help them with their futures.

**Mr Daigeler:** Minister, I find it extremely hard to follow your twisted logic. Certainly what the colleges are telling us, and I'm sure they've told you, is that they cannot accommodate this increase in students we're seeing because of the recession and because of your low transfer

increases to the colleges. I can understand and I can accept that the province is experiencing a difficult fiscal situation, but what I cannot accept, Minister, and what I cannot accept from the Treasurer, is that you have increased the Ministry of Labour's budget, for example, by \$100 million but you've cut OSAP by \$10 million. Mr Minister, what I cannot accept is that you've doubled the budget for Management Board of Cabinet and you're cutting the increases to the colleges and the universities. That's the problem.

Where are your priorities, Mr Minister? Why did your government double the budget for Management Board? Why did it give \$100 million more to the Ministry of Labour but does not find the money to provide for the education students need to find jobs?

**Hon Mr Allen:** There are some patterns of logic that do indeed defy logic. I would just observe that the member does not seem to understand, with respect to OSAP, what happened there. He may recall that last year, although we had a budget for OSAP, we had a movement from 127,000 to 155,000 applicants and therefore spent \$53 million more on OSAP last year than we did the year before, and ever before. The application level for OSAP at this point in time is roughly 190,000 people and we'll support all those students.

#### GRADUATED LICENCES

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** My question is to the Minister of Transportation.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order. The member for York Mills, give us your question.

**Mr Turnbull:** My question is to the Minister of Transportation. Minister, as you'll be aware, I have before the standing committee on resources development a 123 motion to consider the implementation of graduated licences. The Insurance Bureau of Canada has spent several million dollars on developing a paper on this issue, and undoubtedly we have to stop the needless loss of lives. There was an accident in Burlington last year which cost five teenagers their lives, and again last weekend there was a tragic accident. My question is, how quickly can you move, if you're going to move on this issue? It's of vital importance.

**Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation):** The critic opposite is right on. I know he shares in the sorrow of all members of this House when from time to time it comes to the loss of life on Ontario highways. As you are well aware, the record vis-à-vis fatalities, calamities, is not a perfect record—far from it—but it is one of constant improvement. The member opposite is right that young people, specifically people between the ages of 16 and 24, are indeed overrepresented.

We have the responsibility for transportation, not to make it impossible for people to enjoy the privilege and the right to drive on the roads of Ontario. But we also have an obligation to make sure they earn their stripes. We're looking at all options. We're cognizant of what you're asking for and we are in the process of consultation. There has to be a beginning, a middle and an end. Stay tuned. It might come to your neighbourhood very soon.

**Mr Turnbull:** The Minister of Transportation, as usual, gave us an eloquent presentation. Nobody's got an idea as to what he said.

My question was, when will you bring forward legislation? My caucus is very supportive of this measure and we've had discussions with your people. We want an answer. We don't want needless loss of lives. Minister, a caution: We know that a lot of legislation is brought forward that is aimed at an urban setting. There are unique questions to be considered with respect to rural residents. My question is, will you consider the unique aspects of rural residents? Hopefully we can get a clearer answer than on the first question.

**Hon Mr Pouliot:** With respect, if the member opposite does not understand, I cannot and shall not take full responsibility for that kind of reaction, and yet he's right on again. He comes by way of supplementary and tell us about this vast and magnificent land, the diversity in the province of Ontario. This is what makes the issue interesting and challenging. It is a complex issue indeed. We find it challenging. We're moving. We're appreciative of the contribution from the Insurance Bureau of Canada and the Ontario Provincial Police. I know Mr Runciman would join me and other members in this House in thanking our police force, which is certainly putting the welfare of others ahead of its own. They protect and serve indeed. Consultation is alive and well, our work is continuing and we will be able to address the specifics raised by the member opposite in relatively short order.

1510

#### GREEN INDUSTRY STRATEGY

**Mr Tony Martin (Sault Ste Marie):** The community of Sault Ste Marie has been going through a very comprehensive strategic planning exercise over the last year and a half as we look at renewing our economy. Certainly our government has shown great leadership in the restructuring of Algoma Steel. We were heartened by the recent budget delivered by the Treasurer.

Today my question is for the Minister of Energy, because there was reference in the recent speech from the throne to an Ontario green industry strategy. I'm wondering, Mr Minister, if you might explain to me and the residents of Ontario the benefits that will accrue from that for them, and in particular for my city, as we look at taking advantage of new industry that will develop because of this initiative.

**Hon Brian A. Charlton (Acting Minister of Energy):** The green industry strategy the member refers to in his question is a strategy that the government is designing to attempt to ensure that many of the things we've imposed on our industrial sector over the course of the last 20 years in fact start to have a capability of production here in the province of Ontario. The green industry strategy is designed to spur industry to move towards production of products and services in this province that will fulfil some of the goals governments have set, both this one and past governments, around energy and water conservation and around environmental sustainability.

**Mr Martin:** I'm rather interested in some further development of that thought, particularly in light of how important these kinds of initiatives will be to the people who live and work in northern Ontario, and in particular in Sault Ste Marie. At the moment I'm chairing a task force looking at the whole issue of recycling and waste management and how new initiatives that are coming on by the day now will impact our ability as a resource extraction sector to continue to contribute to the economy of the province in significant and meaningful ways. There will be negative impacts; there will be positive impacts. I was wondering if you might be more specific as to how this will apply to the north and, again, in particular how it might apply to the community of Sault Ste Marie and our ability to produce steel, and to communities like Thunder Bay to produce paper and so many of the other resource-based industries that are up there.

**Hon Mr Charlton:** The member's question is an important one. He mentioned two specific industries in the north which are of particular interest but don't exclusively relate to the north. He mentioned paper and he mentioned steel at Algoma. The kind of approach we're taking is to try to ensure that as we try to clean up the processes, for example, in the steel industry or the paper industry, we do that in consultation with those very industries and with those that produce the parts and products that make those industries run, so we can ensure that as the technology becomes available to do environmental clean-up, and make those industries more efficient at the same time, as many of those products as possible are produced right here at home.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH CORPS

**Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North):** My question is to the Treasurer. It follows very nicely, I think, on the question for the Minister of Energy as it relates to environmental issues, particularly in light of the recent statement by you, Mr Treasurer, that the primary concern of your budget is job creation. I couple that now as well with the concerns we have with respect to youth employment.

I look at the Ministry of the Environment and I see that the government has flat-lined payments through the Ministry of the Environment for the Environmental Youth Corps, a program, Treasurer, that I remind you gives opportunity to young people to earn while they learn in terms of environmental issues and to contribute in a very positive way to this province, right across the province. East, west, north, south, the greater Toronto area: Every region of the province benefits in terms of the Environmental Youth Corps.

Last year there were 3,400 young people employed. At that time the unemployment rate for youth was about 10.6%. This year we're close to doubling the unemployment rate, as noted by Statscan, with respect to youth. It's probably much higher, Treasurer, and yet we're cutting back on those kinds of programs, the result being that we have some 2,900, a significant cutback in the number of students employed through the Environmental Youth Corps program.

Treasurer, would you please reconsider your budgeting priorities? My colleague has raised the idea with respect to cutting back funding for students in terms of loans and grants. Here we have a program that gives tangible experience and benefits young people, yet your government is cutting it. Would you reconsider that and revisit your budgeting priorities, Mr Treasurer, so that young people get the job experience and the opportunities they deserve so they can then go on in further education and learn while they do it?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** First of all, I endorse completely the member's understanding and articulation of the value of spending on environmental programs, so I have no quarrel with him in that regard whatsoever.

When we were drafting the budget there were a large number of groups, parts of the province, sectors, that we wanted to do a lot more for. There's no question about that whatsoever. When I look at the unemployment rate in eastern Ontario, northern Ontario—all over the province, but there are pockets where the problem is more severe than in others—we wanted to do more as well.

I can tell the member that the likelihood of more money going into these programs at this point is slim indeed, because I'm sure that, as he sits there playing a pivotal role in his caucus, he has heard his leader talk about the evils of the size of the Ontario budget as it is.

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole):** Your priorities are all wrong.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I don't expect the member opposite to agree with all our priorities. I assume he wouldn't agree with those of the member for Oriole either.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Time for oral questions has expired.

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I'd like your guidance with respect to standing order 21(a). It has to do with a response given to me by the Minister of Labour. That response was of May 4. It has nothing to do with the response itself except that the last sentence by the minister in his response to me indicated that I, as the member, should get my information correct. So I bring this matter to your attention.

I originally asked a question April 28, a Tuesday, which dealt with the withdrawal of funding from a lung cancer early detection and treatment program. The minister at that point had committed to respond at a later time. That was May 4. In his response he alluded to the fact that there was a—

**Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader):** You can't correct another member's record.

**Mr Offer:** I see that the House leader is saying you can't correct someone else's record. If the House leader had paid attention, it has to do with a statement made by the Minister of Labour to me personally that I should get my information correct.

**The Speaker:** What is your point of order?

**Mr Offer:** My point of privilege is that he had indicated that there was a funding agreement between Algoma

Steel and Denison Mines. The Canadian Institute for Radiation Safety has commented that that is not correct, as was indicated by the Minister of Labour, but that my information was correct. I bring this matter to your attention as a point of privilege because in the minister's response he alluded to my information and me being incorrect. It is the Minister of Labour. I would like him to correct the record.

**The Speaker:** Would the member take his seat, please. The member has not lost any privilege. What you have, obviously, is a difference of opinion between yourself and the minister. Of course, in part that's what we provide 60 minutes each day for.

1520

### PETITIONS

#### REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** I have a petition that reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the above-mentioned implementations;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a quick-fix solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

I have signed this petition as well.

#### STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

**Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot):** I have a petition from several constituents from New Hamburg, Baden, Kitchener-Waterloo and Hamilton.

"To the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas our civil law, as it currently stands, defines sexual molestation as assault; and

"Whereas all assault is subject to a four-year statute of limitations;

"We believe no limitation period should apply in cases of interfamilial and/or incestuous sexual molestation, as it takes an indeterminate number of years for a victim to come to know the impact of the molestation;

"Therefore, we petition the Ontario Legislature to introduce legislation that would guarantee victims of interfamilial and incestuous sexual molestation the right to bring civil action against their perpetrators without time limitations."

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition which reads as follows:

"The Ministry of Education has made evolutionism a compulsory core unit in senior OAC (previously grade 13) history and science. Since evolutionism and creationism are completed acts in the past, neither can be proven nor disproven. In fairness to all parents and students, equal time should be given in presenting the underlying assumptions of each. Through the two-model approach, the skills of critical thinking such as recognition of bias, awareness of society's influence on one's bias and the awareness of assumptions can allow students to examine their own belief systems and better appreciate an opposing view. These skills should be incorporated into all textbooks, approved in circular 14, dealing with the question of origins."

### TEACHERS' RETIREMENT

**Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex):** I have a petition signed by 69 people respectfully requesting the government of Ontario to lower the retirement factor for teachers from 90 to 85, and the retirement age to age 60, in order to open up job opportunities for teachers with less seniority and provide savings to school boards. I have signed my name to this petition.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### GASOLINE TAX AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

##### LOI DE 1992

#### MODIFIANT LA LOI DE LA TAXE SUR L'ESSENCE

Deferred vote on the motion for third reading of Bill 86, An Act to amend the Gasoline Tax Act / Loi portant modification de la Loi de la taxe sur l'essence.

1527

The House divided on Ms Wark-Martyn's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

**Ayes—56**

Akande, Allen, Bisson, Buchanan, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Drainville, Duignan, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Gigantes, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Huget, Johnson, Klopp, Laughren;

Mackenzie, MacKinnon, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Martin, Mathyssen, Mills, Morrow, North, O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Pilkey, Pouliot, Rizzo, Silipo, Sutherland, Swarbrick, Ward (Brantford), Waters, Wessenger, White, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman, Wood, Ziemba.

**Nays—31**

Arnott, Bradley, Brown, Caplan, Carr, Chiarelli, Cordiano, Cousens, Cunningham, Curling, Daigeler, Eves, Harris, Jordan, Mahoney, Marland, McClelland, McGuinty, McLeod, Offer, O'Neil (Quinte), O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poole, Ramsay, Sorbara, Stockwell, Sullivan, Turnbull, Villeneuve, Wilson (Simcoe West).

**OPPOSITION DAY****SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS**

Mrs McLeod moved opposition day motion 3:

Whereas the economy of Ontario is not now providing our citizens, particularly our young people, with a sense of future security or job opportunity; and

Whereas our current institutions and programs are not now providing relief for our people from the sense of frustration and hopelessness in which they find themselves; and

Whereas this frustration and hopelessness have been manifest in the form of incidents of violence in the city of Toronto, which incidents are of great concern to all Ontarians;

Therefore, this Parliament urges cooperation and understanding from all members in order to undertake constructive change designed to address the underlying causes of these incidents.

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer):** This is bizarre.

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** The Treasurer has just called across the floor that this is a bizarre motion, and I would agree that this motion is somewhat unusual in the way in which we have attempted to express our concerns, our very real concerns, in this motion; the way in which we have, in fact, in an opposition day motion called for a cooperative effort of all members of this House to address issues which are of serious concern to all citizens of this province.

We have chosen this as a focus for an opposition day resolution so that we could provide an opportunity in this House for all of us, for all concerned members of this House, to be able to explore an understanding of the events that happened in Toronto last week so we would all know how best to respond to them.

We chose last week not to raise this issue in question period because of the inevitable confrontation of a question period session. We chose instead to express our concerns and to call a meeting of the leaders of the three parties in order, again, to take a constructive, non-partisan approach to dealing with these issues. In leading off this debate, my goal is to set a tone for what I hope will be a constructive and a thoughtful discussion of issues which are of great urgency and certainly of considerable magnitude.

All of us were concerned about the vandalism that occurred in Toronto last week. We were concerned about the tensions that gave rise to the outburst of violence, and we continue to be concerned about the tensions that continue as a result of fear that violence will occur again. All of us should have been concerned about the frustration and the anger that led the black community to demonstrate in a way which seemed subsequently to trigger a riot, but we should not make the mistake of confusing these issues, even as we try to understand how they are in some ways related. The black community demonstration was not the same as the riot in the streets, but the rioting and the tension in the streets may well have had at least some of their roots in common with the frustrations of the black community.

We will not advance our understanding of these issues or our ability to respond in an effective way if we try to

simplify what has happened. Many people have reacted to the rioting with anger and with fear. There is no question that safety and security are a concern for us all, and there is no question that violence and vandalism cannot be tolerated.

There is no room in this discussion today for police-bashing. The police have a difficult job to do, and we value and depend on their efforts. But those of us who are not black, who are not part of any visible minority group, cannot and must not let our own fear, our own concern for safety, stop us from understanding that there is still systemic discrimination in our justice system, that it is no less real because it may be less blatant, and that even while efforts have been made to respond to this concern, there is still a long way to go.

We must somehow find the capacity to walk that mile in another's moccasins, to understand how the fear experienced by blacks, or in my part of the province by Indians, is fear of the very people who for the rest of us are seen as protectors. It is difficult for those of us who have not experienced that fear to grasp what it must be like. It seems to me that it's the kind of fear that turns the normal and the expected upside down. It's the kind of fear that makes faith in the justice system impossible.

All of us need to have faith in our justice system, to be free of fear. So we must do whatever needs to be done to eliminate the fears, to restore the faith that our system of justice does indeed work; that it works to ensure the safety of us all, certainly, but that it works too in a way which is truly protective of the rights of every citizen in a fair and impartial way.

We've commended the government on its action in appointing Stephen Lewis to look at what is needed to respond to the problems of systemic discrimination in our institutions, including our justice system. I appreciate the fact that after we had asked for meetings of all three parties, Mr Lewis has moved quickly to work with me and with our caucus. We will cooperate fully in helping to understand the issues and the most effective responses.

We acknowledge the added frustration of people in the community that governments—I would say all governments—seem to respond to the immediacy of a crisis, and that too often the efforts needed for real progress are not sustained. That really should be a primary focus for Mr Lewis's attention: what happens in between the crises. But we must not fail to respond, or hesitate in recommitting to make that needed effort.

I will not speak to the details of the issues that need to be pursued in the interest of fair access to the justice system. The government has been identifying some of these in recent days, and my colleagues and others will speak to them as well. But I do want to take a moment to touch on the other set of issues, issues that are related in some way to the issue of access to justice but a long way from being synonymous with it.

These are issues that must also be the focus of our concern, because in a large measure the tensions of last week are a direct result of the tensions that inevitably build in our society as we fail to come to grips with the reality of unemployment, of economic insecurity, of inadequate or

ghettoized housing and of still far less than equal access to educational opportunity.

1540

We take some pride in our country that our social program network is stronger than that of the United States. Our belief in equality of opportunity is pervasive and profound, but the challenges of maintaining and extending the programs we believe in have never been greater. We are still a long way from achieving the goals of truly equal opportunity.

There's no question that our ability to respond to the challenges of creating the kind of society we all want will rest on our ability to support a strong economy. But we must not, under the pressures of our most immediate economic difficulties, lose what we have gained. It will take tremendous insight and cooperative effort not only to hold on, but to make some real progress, and yet somehow that must be achieved. We must find ways of making progress on employment equity, access to education, child welfare and family poverty.

A starting point, because it is so urgent, must be an immediate examination of the need for some employment for youth. We have repeatedly called on the government to address this issue. We trust the appointment of a new parliamentary assistant to coordinate youth employment programs is not just window dressing, not just a reason for delay, because the issue must be an immediate priority and it must receive immediate action.

We will continue to urge the government to undertake a fundamental re-evaluation of the policies and directions that are choking the possibility of our economic recovery, because somehow the cycle of economic disaster, a cycle that puts more and more pressure on our social systems while there is less and less revenue to support our programs, must be turned around. A short-term immediate response to the most urgent priorities is needed, but in the longer term only a sound economy is going to make significant progress possible. We cannot see these as separate issues. We must not, as we approach the day's debate, refuse to understand the depth and the breadth of the issues we're called upon to discuss.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** I thank the honourable Leader of the Opposition for her opening remarks. We will now proceed in the normal rotation. There will not be questions and/or comments, because the time has been allocated to each party in equal measure.

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** I am pleased to be able to prefer a few comments on the resolution as put forward by the Liberal Party. I want to commend the leader of the Liberal Party and the party for providing a forum and an opportunity for discussion, a vehicle perhaps for those of us in opposition to put forward solutions to the problems and indeed to encourage the government and point the way for the government to begin working more diligently on solutions.

I will leave many of the specifics for my caucus colleagues, who I know are very enthusiastic about providing, in a positive way, solutions to the government as opposed to, of course, our better-advertised forum of criticizing the

government, even though there's so much to criticize and even though it is heading off in wrong directions in so many ways. As much as there is a plethora of subjects, question periods are such that it's very difficult for us, with 200 or 300 possible disastrous directions, to zero in on which ones we'll focus on. Even though that is indeed one of the very legitimate roles for us in opposition, we welcome this opportunity to provide some more positive solutions and suggestions to the government.

I want to say as well, being a tad critical of the Liberal Party, I suppose, that the solutions it has offered, if you read the last part of the resolution—the preamble states the problem, which we agree with: "Therefore, this Parliament urges cooperation and understanding"—boy, there's heading off the fence and striking off in a bold direction and providing direction for the party in power—"from all members in order to undertake constructive change designed to address the underlying causes of these incidents."

What is the constructive change? Does the Liberal Party have one idea? Does the new Liberal leader have one idea, one concept, one thing in the way of a constructive change? This is what is so depressing, so disconcerting to us in the Conservative caucus and the party.

This is a typical wishy-washy motion from a wishy-washy party that has no demonstrated values, no demonstrated principles, no stands, no solutions and therefore, quite frankly, in many ways is wasting the time of this House. The opposition day motion is an opportunity for the opposition to come forward and say: "Look, there are some things here you could be doing. Here's what we suggest you do, and we will help you with that."

In that sense, I want to say how very disappointed I am as an opposition party member. I want to state very clearly and unequivocally that our party, as an opposition party, takes its responsibility to provide alternatives much more seriously than that. There is a time for pointing fingers and suggesting the government is not moving in the right direction—yes, that is part of our role as opposition—but opposition motions are times when we are to bring forward those constructive changes. What are they? This motion should have done that, but in typical Liberal fashion it tries to be all things to all people.

I noticed the Liberal leadership—I think it was Eugene Whelan—talking about what policies he thought would evolve. He said: "We'll read the polls. We are like a bird. We can kind of drift over with the left wing, then we can drift over with the right wing." How true he was. That's exactly the way the Liberal Party was federally and provincially, and nothing's changed.

It's a disappointment—in fact, it's embarrassing—as an opposition politician to suggest that that's the only role of opposition in the 1990s in the Legislature of Ontario. So they're still trying to be all things to all people.

By the way, I was really intrigued with the Liberal opposition to the labour legislation. The leader said, "This isn't the right time for the changes you're proposing." What nonsense. No time is the right time when you're moving in the wrong direction, when you're bringing in the wrong things. In fact, if we were concerned about the balance of power in this whole thing—and I don't think

that's the debate. I think it's disgraceful we're arguing about who has the most power—unions or management. That's 20 years old. The debate should be about how we're going to get both sides to check their powers at the door when they come together in providing solutions to the problems that face us. If the argument is still about who has the most power, then I tell you, we're 20 years behind in labour relations towards providing the solutions that Ontarians are going to need in those relationships. But the leader of the Liberal Party and my friend and colleague from Thunder Bay had said, "Not at this time." In fact, if changes were necessary, this is the right time. I would sooner deal with it now, in the middle of a recession, than at some other time.

As an opposition party, we believe it's part of why the public is so frustrated and fed up with politicians today, with this process that all we do is criticize and we have no solutions. So I say to the Liberal Party, and I want to say it very strongly and very clearly, that I plan today to give options and solutions to the government, but I also want to say I'm a little embarrassed and I think you do politicians a disservice by bringing forth a motion like this, trying to be all things to all people—typical empty Liberal rhetoric, no constructive solutions to fix the problems. Once again the Liberal Party is years, if not decades, behind my caucus colleagues and our party in providing new directions and providing solutions to many of the problems that face us.

I want to deal with the resolution and I want to give you some solutions, some alternatives. My colleagues will, throughout the rest of the day, do likewise.

1550

The motion says, "Whereas the economy of Ontario is not now providing our citizens, particularly our young people, with a sense of future security or job opportunity." We agree with the "whereas." We think we should have gone on in the resolution and said that we can control government spending. We could then reduce taxes so the private sector can compete, invest and create jobs and help provide our young people with that sense of future security, hope and opportunity. That's one solution.

New directions on labour law reform to restore consumer and investor confidence and create more jobs: I met with a business person yesterday who in conjunction with 20 others wanted to meet with me on the labour legislation proposals. He said, "I'm here representing my boss who was in Japan." This guy says to me: "I know the Premier of the province is in Japan. Let me assure you, he's checked out the itinerary and he does not want to be seen anywhere in Japan with the Premier of the province of Ontario." Isn't that an embarrassing situation?

He felt being seen with Bob Rae would hurt his chances of doing business with the Japanese. What a disgraceful situation, that we have sunk that low here in Ontario. We have sunk to that. With labour law reform, if the Liberals didn't want to sit on the fence—where, I tell you, it can get very sore from time to time—they could have come forward and said: "Drop this nonsense on the labour law reform. Bring business and labour together as to how

they can work together to provide more jobs, job security in our province."

Sunday shopping: They could have set a new focus on government resources for physical and human infrastructure, the hard services where this year you have basically flat-lined the amount of money going into infrastructure, even though you've increased spending 5% in our human infrastructure.

Education: here we have a 25% increase. We are told of Ontarians wanting to upgrade themselves into community colleges and you're giving them a 1% increase in funding. There is 300% for some of your other priorities. I just saw \$62,000 today for art grants to unions so they can do plays and posters on how great unions have been. Give me a break. People need jobs, they need the skills and the upgrading required for the jobs of the future. We in our caucus have put forward these solutions.

The Liberal resolution says, "Whereas our current institutions and programs are not now providing relief for our people from the sense of frustration and hopelessness in which they find themselves." We agree. What are their solutions? They don't have any. We have suggested in our document *New Directions* that you reform welfare, that you listen carefully to what was being told to us by Thomson in the Social Assistance Review Committee report and by the experts of the field and that you implement those, reform welfare, link social benefits directly to jobs, training, education, apprenticeship, perhaps even relocation if it's necessary for that training in those jobs; that you target public sector resources on housing, health care, day care and transportation; that you encourage more private sector solutions; and that you reform the Workers' Compensation Board and other entitlement programs that are causing great problems on both sides of the issue—workers, employees, those who have been hurt and of course employers—with a \$10-billion quickly going to a \$12-billion unfunded liability.

That is one of the main reasons, along with labour law reform and taxation, why investors and entrepreneurs are concerned about opening up shop here. We've got the highest payroll taxes for WCB in the country and it looks like we're going to have the highest into the future to take care of this deficit.

The resolution says, "Whereas this frustration and hopelessness have been manifest in the form of incidents of violence in the city of Toronto, which incidents are of great concern to all Ontarians." We agree. We suggest a more consistent and long-term public policy agenda beyond the narrow fixes, the narrow issues and the special interests. Let's get long term. Let's quit reacting to the short term.

Our young people want jobs; they want hope; they want to be able to get up in the morning and feel there is an opportunity in this province of Ontario for them, that the good life they came to this country to achieve and that was held out as hope for their parents when they came here is available to them—not handed to them, but available to them.

They do not feel that way today. But the Liberal Party offers no solutions, no direction, no policy. All they want

to do is criticize and not bring forward what it is that we should be doing.

My caucus and I released a document, *New Directions*, to the public of this province, and copies are available if you would like to call me, Mike Harris, at Queen's Park. In it we talk about more consistent long-term public policy agendas; we talk about protecting and upholding victims' rights in a draft bill that we have presented; we talk about putting more resources, including the proceeds from crime, back into the neighbourhood and into community safety.

The resolution says, "Therefore, this Parliament urges cooperation and understanding from all members in order to undertake constructive change designed to address the underlying causes of these incidents." Cooperation and understanding? I have not found one single member out of 130, of all three parties and one who so far has chosen to sit by himself, who has been elected to this Legislature and has not wanted to be cooperative, has not wanted to understand and has not wanted to undertake constructive change. We all want that. We may disagree philosophically or, from time to time, on how you should do it, but we all want that. So the Liberal Party is urging that on us. I say you should resign your seat if you're not here to provide cooperative and constructive solutions to problems. I have not found anybody. Why are we wasting time with a resolution urging us to do something that is the very reason we run to represent constituencies across this province?

So, Mr Speaker, I suggest to you and to members of the Legislature that I have put forward 10 or 12 solutions to the problem. There are many more in the document we have put forward, *New Directions*. We're prepared to undertake solutions with you.

We're prepared to look at creative ways of setting up non-partisan committees, which I haven't seen in my 11 years here. I have offered this to the Premier, where we would set up committees to study the problems before the government has made up its mind, so that the majority of the government members don't just go around the province defending their ministers or their Premier, right or wrong, as they did in Sunday shopping—and now you're all having second thoughts. That is what I expect from a party in opposition.

Are we going to support this Liberal resolution? Of course we'll vote for it; we agree with all the things that are there. We hope and pray that there is not a single member here who does not wish to undertake constructive change designed to address the underlying causes of these incidents and bring understanding to them. But let's have the solutions. Let's go forward. Get off the fence. Where do you stand?

That's the role, we believe, of the opposition parties of the 1990s, and that's the role that I and my caucus are fulfilling. I challenge the government to pick up on some of the solutions we are offering. You must face this: What you guys are doing, as the Liberals did, and the mess you inherited is not working. So have the courage to look at alternative solutions that we are proposing.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further participation, any opposition members? The honourable member for High Park-Swansea.

**Hon Elaine Ziemba (Minister of Citizenship and Minister Responsible for Human Rights, Disability Issues, Seniors' Issues and Race Relations):** It's indeed with pleasure that I stand up on the government side on this matter that has been brought forward by the official opposition.

I am pleased about the spirit of cooperation and understanding. We all have had our dreams about why we wanted to come to this place and to be members of the Legislature, and that certainly is one: to work together in cooperation, in the spirit of understanding, to resolve the problems that we face in our society. I don't think any of us would disagree with that. In fact, I was quite heartened to hear the leader of the official opposition talk about making sure we have that spirit of cooperation, making sure we have that understanding and that we continue to work together to find the solutions.

I understand the frustration that seemed to be exhibited by the leader of the third party when he talked about having solutions and wanting to express those solutions and perhaps finding this motion a bit vague. However, I would like to build on the spirit of cooperation and understanding and to work towards that consensus to see how we can address the issues.

The solutions are many. There are many solutions to a problem, because a problem is complex; it's very diverse. What we saw happen last week is not a surprise to members of this House. What we saw last week was a continuation of frustration by many groups of people in feeling excluded from being part of the society we all live in and cherish.

1600

In the spirit of cooperation and trying to work towards that understanding, I've initiated meetings, first of all last week, with the four governments in Metropolitan Toronto. I met with Gerry Weiner, the Minister of Multiculturalism and Citizenship for the federal government. We met with Mayor Rowlands of the city of Toronto and with the Metro chair, Alan Tonks.

In that spirit of cooperation and in that spirit of understanding in trying to work towards solutions and trying to work towards a better understanding of the complex diversity and problems we all face in Toronto, we came up with the idea that we must sit down and form a committee. A committee is meeting very quickly and will come up with some cooperative measures, some cooperative ideas by May 30: a very short time frame, because we felt we had to address these problems quickly and expediently and that there was no time to waste.

Also in the spirit of cooperation and understanding in trying to work together, I have had meetings with my critics. I had a meeting just yesterday with a member from the third party, Mr Cousens, where we had a very interesting dialogue. We spent an hour together talking about the problems, the complexities, the unusual situation we all face as members and how we can work towards finding

those solutions and work towards ending the conflict that there seems to appear to be as we sit here every day in question period, as we find it on the streets in our society and in the minds of many people as they are wrestling with the problems of the day.

I enjoyed that conversation because it was a good dialogue. Mr Cousens came up with some very interesting ideas that I think we can work together to implement. I know that when we met he had the intention of coming to work in a cooperative manner. I respect that. I think when we look at these issues we're talking about today, they should not be political. It should be the intention that we all want to work together in that spirit of cooperation, that spirit of understanding in trying to wrestle with the complexity of a changing society that all of us are wrestling with in our minds, trying to understand and trying to accomplish.

I've had conversations with the member from the official opposition, Mr Curling. He and I have had many meetings. We will try to sit down in that spirit of cooperation and dialogue in the next couple of days to have that same type of cooperation. I hope the three of us can sit down to discuss these issues and try to work together, because it's very important. We all feel it's very important to all of us in all three parties. I welcome that opportunity.

When we met last week in what we would term an intergovernmental committee framework, I was very heartened to see that the federal government as well wanted to work with the provincial government, wanted to work with the Metro level of government, wanted to work with the city government, again understanding that these issues are complex and diverse, and that we all have to put our minds to trying to find the solutions.

I was also very pleased to hear that the leader of the official opposition talked about the appointment of Mr Stephen Lewis and felt that this was a good start and a good way to work towards finding those solutions. I am also pleased to hear that she was pleased about the parliamentary assistant to the Premier, Zanana Akande, working on short-term solutions. I understand it when she says we must not just look at short-term solutions, but we also have to look for long-term solutions.

In the short time since I was elected, which is one year and perhaps seven months, I've had the opportunity to travel across Ontario. In that travelling across Ontario I've learned that we have a very special resource in this province. That special resource, yes, maybe could be the trees and the mines and the water of Ontario we all have pictured, but the most special resource we have is our people who live in all parts of our society, who live in all regions of our province, who live in the urban centres, who live in the rural centres, who farm, who might live in the northern communities as well. There are the first nations that obviously have been in this country with a government, with a culture, with traditions for many thousands of years, who have produced in this country and given us a heritage and a culture that we are trying to share, and many other people who came from many different places to join in a land, in a province, in a country where they could enjoy

freedom, where they could enjoy an equality and where they could enjoy an equity.

I think those are things we cherish very much. My own people, having come from Poland, settled in this province in 1859 in the Renfrew county area. They were fleeing from oppression. They were fleeing to make sure they could raise their families in a democratic society. They wanted to make sure their children were living in a country where they could be part of that society, whether it was economic, whether it was culture, whether it was part of the education system, where they would be part of that community.

My own family came here in the 1930s, in a very difficult time, in the worst Depression that we have ever faced in this country. They came under great difficulties; again, because my father wanted to make sure that if he had children they would be able to live in a country where they could express themselves, practise their religious and political beliefs—that was always very important in my family—and also be able to participate in anything they wanted to do.

Unfortunately, although we do have the best province and the best country in the world—and I don't think anybody would deny that because a lot of people still want to come here—we are facing an exclusion of some members of our community, of some people of the community who feel they are not able to share in the society that we all want, that is equal and fair. They feel excluded and they feel frustrated.

It's not just the people from the black community who feel that; it's also people in our first nations, who we've seen express it very carefully as we work into the constitutional dialogue. There are also people from the disabled community. It's women, and it's also people who have not been able to proceed in their careers.

As I sat and listened to the leader of the official opposition, and as well the leader of the third party, talking about cooperation and seeing how we can have an understanding to grapple with these very serious concerns and frustrations that people feel, I was thinking of the many initiatives that we are trying to bring in in this House. Of course, one that is, I think, very important is employment equity, which we hope to have very shortly at first reading, which will make sure that people who want to be employed, who want to be participants in our economic life in Ontario have an equal opportunity to follow the careers of their choice and can undertake to be part of a workplace that will not discriminate, will not put them at risk of facing harassment, and will truly treat them as equal individuals, treating their abilities and their capabilities as prime and important.

It's very important, I think, when we look at what we hope to achieve in the next few short months about the equity and justice agenda, that we take hold of the fact that the frustration we saw very vividly last week is there, and that we must try to find an understanding why people feel that frustration. The short-term objectives that my colleague Zanana Akande will be undertaking in terms of employment for our young people to help them over the summer months are very, very important, but yes, we do have to

think of the long-term objectives, and certainly employment equity will, we hope, bring about the long-term objectives of ending discrimination, ending racism, and making sure that equity and fairness are observed.

There are definitely problems in all the systems we have, in all the institutions we have in Ontario. Some of those systemic barriers are there because unfortunately they're placed there by racism and discrimination. However, some of those systemic barriers are there because of an attitude, because that's the way we've always done things. Well, that's not good enough any more, and some of the objectives that have been introduced in the House in the last couple of months hope to address those systemic barriers.

I was very pleased when my colleague the Attorney General spoke last week, last Thursday I believe it was, about changing the system of appointing juries, how we look to make sure that there is really equal representation of all our population, that we really do have an equal system and a fair system. I think those are things that are extremely important. There is implementing anti-racism training to make sure all our law initiatives and law programs can make sure they understand the diversity of this province, because we do have a very diverse province, one where we should be celebrating our diversity.

I was also very pleased when I heard the initiatives mentioned in the budget speech, and the throne speech as well. We talk about job initiatives and long-term strategy for training to make sure all our society has the opportunity for retraining in this climate that is changing very rapidly, a very diverse climate, a very different climate in the global marketplace, where we're seeing changes with technological advances every day, things that we have to address in those retraining methods, making sure that people who have not had the opportunity of training can enter into the workforce with a new career and be able to participate.

1610

I'm also very pleased that last year we introduced a very important strategy, which we call the Ontario anti-racism strategy. We put in some new resources. We have a new assistant deputy minister. We also have a very interesting community representation on an advisory working group and we've come up with some very interesting strategies and programs. These are very important initiatives, initiatives that we really have to work on in cooperation with and with understanding from all members of the House as we work towards those problems that we saw last week, and as we work towards addressing all of those issues.

I'm also very pleased the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board has been put in place, because OTAB will address some of those long-term solutions that are very, very important and that will make a difference to all our citizens of this province.

As I started, in my speech, to talk about the diversity and complexities we see in our society and as we address the motion from the Leader of the Opposition, I am encouraged, although this is vague—yes, we can understand that it's vague—but if a member of government can

hold another party accountable, I will hold them accountable to that spirit of cooperation, that spirit of understanding, because in these difficult times we must all of us take responsibility. It's not just the government side that must take the responsibility for the problems of the day; it's all three parties, all members of the Legislature. I will watch with interest the other two parties as we work to make sure that we work in a spirit of cooperation and understanding.

I look forward to those hours of dialogue and conversation so that we can break down the tradition in this House of confrontation instead of cooperation. I hope this motion speaks of that cooperation and understanding and that we can see the confrontational attitude that often pervades this House broken down instead into a spirit where we all share the responsibility where we all come up with the solutions and where we all take ownership of the problems and work towards a good society, the society we all want it to be, which is equal, fair and equitable, where all members of our society feel they have a place in our Ontario, feel that not only do they have a place in our Ontario but that they're important people in our Ontario and that we cherish and strive to keep them here, and that we celebrate our diversity and make sure that we establish a good working relationship together.

I have had pleasure in being able to just give a few little thoughts and I know the dialogue the rest of the day—and I'm not saying a debate, but a dialogue—will be of great interest to me. I'm looking forward to that and I entertain that cooperation and that understanding.

**The Acting Speaker:** Thank you. Further participation on Ms McLeod's opposition day motion.

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** It's been opposition day for me ever since May 1985 when we lost power. I've been in opposition for so long that you come into the Legislature and there's been so little to support that you end up having to oppose everything.

Notwithstanding that, I'm going to support the position that's been presented by the Liberals today. Certainly, if it's done in the spirit of a genuine proposal being brought forward for cooperation among all members of the House, I see that as a positive step. If it's in fact a sincere effort to develop a strategy for young people and people of all ages who are hurting, who have lost the sense of hope and the sense of future, then I support it for that reason. If it's something that can begin a new process in this Legislature of non-partisan participation on important issues, where all of us can sit and work together to address and concern ourselves with the issues that face the province, then I support it.

Yesterday I was privileged to attend a luncheon meeting with members of Eastern European democracies. Isn't that something? I mean, a year ago who would have thought that Estonia and Latvia, Ukraine, Russia and others would be coming here to learn how we do it? Yet one of the things that came through in that presentation was when I talked to one of the Russian members of Parliament. He said, "You know, we've been able to solve the problem of the fleet on the Black Sea a thousand kilometres away from Moscow, because we're able to talk to the Ukrainians

one on one and develop strategies that can mean something." But then his face fell, because he knew he'd soon be going back to face the same rivalries that existed before they took this junket to see how we operate.

There is an important sense that has to be cultivated and developed in this House, and we're so far from it. As to the committee structure, the way it's developed, it seems we're constantly working at odds with each other instead of developing a consensus on how we can improve this province. I find in particular that a change has taken place within the Liberal caucus since it lost power. They come forward today with a motion that is as close to godliness as you'll ever get from the Liberals, but back when they were in power, I'll tell you, they had a chance to do a lot of things right and they failed. They brought in some 33 taxes in five years, a record number of taxes, and hiked us up to the point where we're now one of the highest-taxed jurisdictions in North America thanks to the Liberals.

There they are now pontificating about how bad it is. They voted against a tax bill of the New Democrats today, but go back and remember how the Liberals developed their own tax policy, which has caused property taxes to increase, education taxes to increase, and just about every other level that reports through to the province as having problems. Tax policies have so much to do with what's going to go on within everything else in our society. The Liberal tax policies stank then, and they don't have any now. That's the point the leader of our party was making.

With regard to their education priorities, they had a chance to come out and say, "What are we going to do to help our young people face the future?" The people who were out in the street last Monday night here in Toronto were educated during the Liberal time, and some of the time was during the Tory time, and a very short part of it during the New Democrats. I'll tell you, we've failed our young people. They are coming out of school and they're illiterate; many of them are, anyway. Many of them are brilliant and doing well, but others have not begun to develop their skills and their resources the way they're capable of.

We as legislators have not been honest with ourselves or our constituents to say, "What are we going to do about the education system?" We have not seriously sat down in a non-partisan way and said, "This is what we can do with education to get it going." We're paying top dollar of any jurisdiction in the world here in Ontario. Are we getting top quality? Fortunately for many of us, our own young people are coming along fine, but we're not succeeding with all of them.

The disenchantment and the hurt and the failure rate and the groups that are just dropping out of society and becoming rebels to the rest of society—I say we have a responsibility to them. It's not just the Education minister and his crew who can't solve a strike problem that's going on in Carleton, but it should be all of us developing joint strategies together. Our democratic system stinks right now because of the partisan splitting up of problems. If we could come together and say—

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** Say some more things about the Liberals. Go ahead.

**Mr Cousens:** I will, York Centre. The Liberals certainly are part of the problem, and there are Tories who are a problem, and these guys are; we all are. But if you're going to come forward with a motion that says, "We are going to do something about the future, with optimism," come on, let's change the structure of this place so we start working together.

**Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East):** We are working together.

1620

**Mr Cousens:** We're not working together at all. I try to work with you. It's difficult, but I will try again and again because I believe we are missing the real opportunity of serving our community and the province.

There's a motion coming forward in private members' hour a few days from now from the member for Victoria-Haliburton that is going to have something to do with independent members in the House, to give them more of a role. I see that as positive. In the meantime, I tell you, Mr Speaker, as we look at the actions that were taken by the Liberals when they got their limos, they wound up the windows and drove around in their big cars in the same way the previous government did to them and in the same way these people are now. Once you've become a minister—that TV program, Yes, Minister—you start saying "Yes, Mr Leader," "No, Mr Leader," that whole process.

We've got a chance now to begin asking, "Is there something the matter with the system?" instead of saying, "We'll criticize it just because we're the opposition." If there's something worthy of note then let's find a way of working ahead of time so that the committee structure, as it's working in the States, will give people a chance to really work through the issues instead of having a whip come along and say, "You're going to vote this way."

Bill 143 proved that. The government just rammed through one of the stinkiest pieces of legislation I've ever seen in the garbage act for Metropolitan Toronto, Bill 143. The fact was, there was no chance during the whole public debate—the four weeks we went through and the one week in committee of the whole—that the New Democrats were going to think for themselves. They were locked into their positions because of where their whip wanted them to go.

One of the key points we have to face up to right now has to do with young people. In fact, if there's anything in this motion that can lead to hope and possibilities—the group hurting most from unemployment right now is those between 16 and 25. They represent 18.7% of the unemployed group here in Canada. What we've got to begin to do is make sure there are programs for them that work, that give them hope, give them experience, give them a chance to go somewhere.

Last year, the New Democratic government reduced the budget for summer employment for young people. I'm referring to the estimates for 1991-92. They reduced the budget from the previous year from \$10.5 million to \$8.3 million. That meant the New Democrats provided some 800 fewer jobs last summer for them. This year what they've done instead is say, "For summer jobs this year,

we'll keep the budget the same as it was last year," so it's at \$8.3 million or \$8.5 million, in that range; it's flat-lined, anyway. We will have more students working, so we will increase the number to 4,000, but instead of working 14 to 16 weeks, the average number of weeks students will be working this year under the New Democratic government is nine weeks. There are more young people who want to go to university or do something else, but there's not enough time there to generate the cash they're going to need for what they want to do afterwards, not enough time to gain any experience in something.

Another example where this government singlehandedly hit the environment and hit jobs was when it said no to the planting of trees in northern Ontario. They reduced it to such an extent that a large number of young people who would formerly go up north in the summer—they'd come back just eaten up by mosquitoes and black-flies and bugs, but muscular and having done something and made a good dollar by doing so. Many of those jobs are eliminated this year because of them.

Many of the jobs that existed previously in Ontario hospitals have disappeared this year. This government has a chance now to react quickly and effectively to provide opportunities for young people today. We see one of the backbenchers of the government having several weeks to investigate further and work on this. It doesn't take a lot of brains to know there are programs that have been previously instituted that can be reviewed, dusted off and re-configured to face today's opportunities. Over time, we can together develop long-term strategies.

We're talking about a province that needs fresh thinking, fresh directions. I believe we could do it far better if we were working together on it. If that's the spirit the Liberals have behind their opposition today, which is really saying, "Let's stop opposing everything; let's try to develop something," I'm in favour of that. It would be a breakthrough for the Ontario Legislature if we suddenly said, "We are colleagues trying to make it a better place to live, a better place for everybody," instead of having everybody running off in different directions trying to score political marks.

I'm prepared to bury the hatchet. I'm prepared to do what I can to see that this day will come. It's a lot easier to say when you're in third party status and you don't have any power and you'd like to be close to where the action is, but that's what is needed, because so many of the people who are being represented by opposition members really feel disenfranchised. Let's start giving people hope by changing the system in here so we start working together more effectively.

**Ms Zanana L. Akande (St Andrew-St Patrick):** I stand in the House this afternoon to speak in support of cooperation among the three parties towards addressing the underlying causes of the incidents that occurred last week. It's an interesting way to word the motion.

I suppose there are those who would state that the underlying cause of those "incidents," as they're described, is the lack of work. I suppose there are those who would minimize it and bring it all to be focused in an economic problem and say that if those people had jobs, if they had

hope of work, if they were able to feel that the courses, the training, the support and education were there for them so that they could take their places in the work world, all that would be responded to and all would be solved. There may be those who believe that. I am not among that group.

I do believe, however, that a response to these people in terms of jobs, in terms of having a healthy economy, is certainly a necessary thing within Ontario and certainly would be a hopeful thing for these people. Many of those who were in the streets last week, though they were involved in different activities—one group in a peaceful demonstration, another group in a riot—many of those people in fact do feel a sense of hopelessness.

I would like to point out to the Speaker that in fact that hopelessness is not just focused in the absence of a job. That hopelessness is frequently focused in the position they hold within society; that hopelessness is focused in the fact that many of those people find themselves at the bottom of the hierarchy of society, and being there, that they are imposed upon. Being there means they are less free to take their place and have access to all the services and all the enjoyment and all the benefits of others in society. Being there means that their status, their very right to be on the street and walk freely, is questioned and that sometimes, by virtue of who they are and where they are, they are imposed upon even by those who are there to protect them, even by those whose salaries their parents have supported through taxes and who are there to protect them.

Being at the bottom of that ladder sometimes means our other institutions don't serve them appropriately. In fact, it may mean they are assumed to be of lesser ability and lesser capability and so are directed towards some other course of study that will not lead them to an appropriate job or to an appropriate level of learning so that they can be independent.

Being there sometimes means that in very ordinary institutions that are meant to serve, to help us perhaps even in illness, the treatment they receive there is sometimes quite imposing and quite different from what others receive.

It is a strange phenomenon. It is one I had hoped, as a child, that I wouldn't be standing here discussing in 1992, in this or in any other place, but it is a truth which I must bring to this House today and that I must talk about in order for us to really focus on the underlying causes of the incidents.

1630

I know there are those who would say, "We're tired of hearing the wailing, and we're tired of hearing people talk about these impositions." In fact, there were those who sent to my constituency office some letters that said to me when I spoke out against some of the situations, "If you don't like it here in Canada, you should go back to where you came from." That in itself supports a common generalization that many who share my complexion tone are in fact not born here. Here I was born, not far from this House, in this city; here I have grown to endure and to speak out against some of the very things that are the underlying causes of these incidents.

So I stand in this House today to support the motion but also to speak once again about some of the things this government is trying to do in order to address the issue in 1992. I have to emphasize to you, Mr Speaker, something you already know, something we all already know: We are not the first government of Ontario; we certainly won't be the last. There have been many before us, and yet it is now that we are beginning, again, to try to address some of the issues which in fact speak to the underlying causes of the incidents that happened last week.

Certainly some of those initiatives are in education. It has been glaringly obvious that many of those who populate this province fail to see themselves reflected in the curriculum, in the content and in the processes in our schools. Many of those whose parents and grandparents were born here fail to see themselves recognized within the school systems where they must go from an early age, from the age of five. It has not been a new piece of information, but it is one that recently has been emphasized: Some of what is taught in schools is in fact degrading and untrue. I do not ask that you re-create history; I only ask that it be represented in its truth and in its entirety, recognizing all of what all people have contributed to its development and to the development of Ontario.

That is just one institution, because so it goes when you go through the school system and when you go through the universities. There are many, many times when we speak about the fact that though many of us have graduated from the universities, few of us are there as educators; so few, in fact, that many of the universities have finally identified this as perhaps a problem they must address. The same is true for first nations, and the same is true for many others.

So we talk about the underlying causes of these incidents—and yes, of course this government is looking at and is involved in restructuring the program, is involved in making the doors wider so that every child who attends school in Ontario, every child we welcomed here from every place, everyone who was born here, all feel a sense of belonging, feel a sense of recognition and therefore feel a sense of responsibility and dedication to provide and contribute to this great country, and all who attend with those people also recognize that their contributions must be expected and accepted in the same spirit as everyone else's. It is time.

This government is also involved in looking at our employment services—very much so. We're looking at employment equity. Oh, yes, we have heard the opposition speak about, "This is not the time; business does not like it," yet we have information where many businesses have said that in fact opening your doors to all who come to be served, making sure your applications are there for everyone, making sure you hire the very best candidate and widening the opportunity for all to apply ensures that you do get the very best candidate. It makes good business sense.

There are those—there are industries, there are companies, in fact—that have done it voluntarily and they have benefited early from the advantages of having been the leaders in this. But there are always some who are rather reluctant to

change, rather slow to take on the benefits of such advantage and must be urged, must be encouraged. But then, is it not the due, is it not the responsibility of a government to ensure that all of its people have a right to enjoy the benefits of work and to enjoy the benefits in a way that does not oppose them because of who they are and where they come from or their race or their social status or any other of those categories?

We are looking at underlying causes. We are then looking at institutions. We are then looking at how this government and those before it do business. I would say to you, Mr Speaker—in fact, I would say to all who are in the House—that we encourage cooperation. We expect it. It was one of the things I expected when I came new to this House a year and a half ago, and it would be the kind of thing I would see as being most beneficial. If we can effect change through cooperation and understanding of the parties in this House, it will assure me that as we go on in government we go nowhere but up, nowhere but improving, and that maybe my child won't have to stand in this or some other House and argue for equity or be a part of the peaceful demonstrations of last week, or someone else, whose frustrations drive him to be a part of the riot, won't have to do that 20 years from now. Yes, I stand in support of this motion.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further participation in the opposition day motion?

**Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North):** I too, of course, support the motion put forward by my leader, Mrs McLeod, following such well-spoken, eloquent delivery by the member for St Andrew-St Patrick. I've always respected her and known very much of her involvement in the community; also of her concern and deep emotion towards this topic.

I also would like to commend my leader for the things she said following the motion, and also the other members from the third party.

This motion comes very close to home because it speaks about people. It speaks about the things we have always talked about in here, in some other lines of beautiful words such as, "Our most important resource in this province or this country is our people." Yet we have to continue to develop institutions, organizations and laws to protect people who have been exploited and alienated, and who feel very disempowered by this system we sometimes call democracy: involvement and participation.

1640

Although some members feel the Liberal Party has put, as you would say, a wishy-washy motion, the idea is not in the words that are sitting here. It goes beyond that. It goes beyond how we feel about that. Where are we going to take this motion? How are we going to involve ourselves, given the opportunity of 130 members to participate and put forward ideas and tell about our feelings? As I have always said, the opportunity of this parliamentary process and the representation of this province brings to us, the 130 members here, a feeling for every corner of this province. It reflects also the same feeling for Canada, a vast and beautiful country.

But people are hurting in many ways, hurting in the sense of being excluded. The word "excluded" itself is a rather tame word for the fact that people are not allowed to work, to support their family, to send their children to school in order to move up in society. There is the sense of not feeling adequate about themselves and of being unable to participate and contribute to their country, because of some belief or beliefs in many of the other population who feel that because they are women, because they are black, or because they are native Canadians, aboriginal people, who are excluded from the process—it goes on. Tolerance: They say, "Let us be tolerant"; with those who have been suppressed, that tolerance itself will explode.

The wonderful thing about it is that the people who are being so oppressed, expressed on Monday, May 11, when they decided to demonstrate their feelings: "We have been excluded from the process. We feel and we know that the justice system has failed us." Specifically, some expressed that they feel the association of the police and themselves is not in good harmony, and that in the administration of justice and policing they have been picked upon. They've been picked and put to pieces in a way that justice has not been administered properly to them.

The police force is subject many times to the failure of our society. People who have been robbed, denied a job, expressed themselves in certain ways that law and order has to be maintained in our society. It is not the way to break windows or to kill. Anything considered not a part of society in the keeping law and order here is illegal. Of course the police must administer the law. Many times the police officers are faced with many of the failures of society. Of course some of the police officers, who feel in themselves that they have acquired this power, administer the law in a way that is unjust. We know we have those, but we have some wonderful law officers here.

Before I touch on institutional failures, I want to touch on leadership, because there is a lot of debate in our society about who are leaders are. Who are these self-appointed leaders? I think that if I can do any justice to that explanation, I will try at this moment.

There are many leaders in our society. I know that you, Mr Speaker, have had what you call mentors, or those whom you have looked upon who have expressed issues that you can associate with. And you, Mr Speaker, have found yourself in situations where you've believed so strongly that you have demonstrated yourself and have actually decided to go to jail under that premise, because you believed so strongly in that. If people feel that strongly, feel that the system is wrong and that they're not being heard, sometimes people do express themselves in that way, and I have no judgement about you or anyone else who demonstrates in that way.

There are leaders in the women's movement who feel they've been excluded in many ways and been discriminated against. They have taken action. They are leaders. They are not elected, but have associated themselves with issues that emotionally they carry beyond normal citizens, and that's okay.

As to the members' names that we have always called and asked about self-appointed leaders, those leaders did

not appoint themselves. They spoke to certain issues that many people in the community feel the same way about and feel very happy, very glad there's someone there who can speak on their behalf and articulate it in that way. They have had that opportunity to express themselves and have said, "Yes, I have been confronted with these problems and I'm glad you're speaking for me."

You've often heard the phrase, Mr Speaker, that the revolution eats its children. In the cause and the fight that they would come forward with, many of them end up sometimes being poverty-stricken, locked out and excluded from society, and those for whom they fought at times would not recognize or acknowledge them. I am glad for those people who come forward with those issues.

Today we are debating an issue because of many people we would call self-styled leaders, and there are others. There are others who decide that within an area, they will run and be elected and then bring those concerns and issues and emotions to an arena, Parliament, where we will say, "Yes, this is happening." I fall in that category, being elected by the people to speak about how they feel.

Many times when I bring issues to this floor, they are issues that I may not believe in, but I know those people out there are expressing pain, and sometimes they say it's an injustice and I have to do that as an elected leader.

We must listen, as elected leaders, to the other leaders of the community, and to those who cannot speak, those who are incapable, who don't have the kind of talent, you would say, to speak out. But when they say that they would follow and demonstrate in that manner, as we saw on May 11, we must listen. If we don't, the consequences are severe.

Who suffers most from all this? Our young people. Our young people today are suffering because of lack of vision and opportunity. They feel, "Why should I go on even to university?" They are wondering, and this is not a partisan shot: "Should I go on through school? It's very expensive. Can my parents, who are trying to put me through university, afford it? They're losing their jobs because of this economy." In the meantime, they're taxed to a point where they are unable to contribute adequately for the kind of education they should get. They look around and sometimes they are saying, "I'm going to give up." And the parents at home are saying to the individuals, those young people, "Go on, because education is important." Alas, they see their parent or their parents losing jobs. They're seeing their parent or parents, who have been discriminated against in the workplace, being denied.

1650

Of course, we talk about the fact that we must open doors for them to come in. Many times doors are open, but they're never allowed to go upstairs. Many visible minority people who have access to jobs are still suffering on the low strata—no promotion. Even when we see employment equity coming in, I say to this government, when you let people in, make sure they can move up into the structure to earn more money. Some of those who are just about making it are now seeing that the recession has hurt them and extra taxes have hurt them. They would like to know what will

become of them, and their young people are saying, "Where do I go?"

The young people are also saying that they've been excluded. "These senior citizens are making decisions for us. When do you include us in this?" I urge this government and all of us here to include the young citizens of this province in any decisions we make.

In summary, I know that time does not permit me to discuss and talk about many of the issues here, but I want to tell you, Mr Speaker, that the institutions have failed young people and have very much failed the visible minority people. The Ontario Human Rights Commission backlog—I spoke about that, the three-year backlog. If one finds oneself with any discriminatory practice that's been administered to one, to take it forth to the Human Rights Commission takes three years before the case is heard. Justice delayed, and all the lawyers sitting here would understand that's justice denied. Who can wait three years, when someone discriminates against you in the workplace, to find out if your case is right or wrong? We need some teeth in all this. As was said, you can pollute the lake and go to jail; you can pollute, disrupt and destroy a human life through discrimination and you get a rap on your hand, an employment equity program and a fine.

Employment agencies here have openly shown discrimination and they're rapped on their hands and move on and destroy other people's lives. It's very close to home, because the community I associate with very often tells me the intimate stories and the destructive stories of their lives. Collectively, of course, we can do something about that; I think we have an opportunity here.

We have a beautiful province. Many times we compare it with the United States and say, "At least we are better." If things are terrible in your home and your son and daughter come home and say they're allowed to do these things because next door it's worse, you clean up what is home. You're more interested in home. If it's beautiful, maintain it to be beautiful. So let us not destroy this. There are lots of improvements.

People are hurting. The young people are hurting. If I make one appeal this summer, right now, tomorrow, if all of us would support such a bill in giving the young people a job so they can go back to school, open that vision—let them be proud, their parents be proud and their country be proud. We know we want this place to be a great place, and it can be if we take those blinders off. Racism is alive and well, but we can wipe it out as much as possible. It would not come right out, but I'm sure we can make this a better place if we all cooperate.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville):** Further debate?

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** I come at this debate with no special insight. I believe some of the previous speakers certainly have an angle offered to this House that maybe we can't necessarily all appreciate.

I come at this just as a member who has really been raised in Metropolitan Toronto and who, over the past number of years, has seen a slow erosion of the safety and neighbourliness of this city. It's very difficult for me to

express in real terms exactly when this happened, how it happened or where it happened.

I was reading the newspaper today and noticed the list of commissions or committees that were formed in previous years by previous governments when this kind of issue came forward. I think there were four, and the last one might well have been the Westcott commission, that came forward with recommendations.

What seems to run through my mind through that process is that it seems it's words and just words, a never-ending stream of words that the public hears and that we in this House continue to enunciate. It doesn't seem to me that we've accomplished much in the number of years that this discussion or debate has taken place.

I have a tremendous amount of respect for the people who were just appointed by the Premier: Mr Lewis and the member for St Andrew-St Patrick. I'm certain that they are full of good intentions, but I think, in all honesty, that this problem is far greater than a 30-day report that Mr Lewis could hand in. It certainly is far more complicated than a couple of months of job-searching for unemployed students.

In my short lifetime of living in Metropolitan Toronto it seems to me that what's happened is that slowly but surely the streets aren't safe any more, the drug problem in the Metro area is rampant and the unrest is immeasurable. I'm not certain that forming another committee to say a whole bunch of new words and produce a new report is going to go any length to resolve what I see to be a complicated issue.

I think what we have here is more than words, more than another commission and more than another nice speech. Every party is capable of giving nice speeches. We all know the words "cooperation" and "we have to work together" and "we have to create committees and round tables," and all the words are used but the problem is never solved.

We have a huge problem in our system. Our system doesn't work and hasn't worked for a long time. It's just taken a long time for this to happen, to catch up.

We have a system that's in place today—and I can blame all levels of government and all politicians—where in a lot of instances there's no incentive to work any more, there's no incentive to get a job and there's no incentive to further your education. The hopelessness they speak of is hopelessness because we've created it.

I don't know how the system can be rectified in such a brief period of time, but clearly the two real issues that everyone speaks about are jobs and potentially the drug problem within our streets.

1700

What we'll do today is go around and line up who speaks next, and we'll arrange to make sure that the next speaker is going to say the right things and that each party is going to use the right words, and then everyone can go to sleep tonight and feel better because we've all said the right thing and we've placated the right communities. But we haven't resolved the issue.

The issue is far greater than who speaks next and whether I've used the right words and whether I've appointed the

right person to a 30-day task force to resolve this problem or the right member of this House who's going to create some summer employment. That's hopeless. That's just not it. That's not even close to being it.

The problem we have in this country, in this province, in this city, is that we're producing an entire generation that really doesn't believe there's any hope. It doesn't need hope because it doesn't need to work. It doesn't need to work because we allow this to take place. We've created a social service net that has created the problem I think England was in two decades ago: no incentive to achieve.

Anyone who doesn't believe this should walk the streets of the city of Toronto at night like a cop would have to walk the streets. Walk in the neighbourhoods where, if you speak with the people who live on that street, they will say categorically, whether the drug dealer is white or black: "I'd just as soon you shot them all. I'd just as soon you cleared them out." We don't even own our own neighbourhoods any more. We haven't owned our own neighbourhoods for five or six years. There are areas in my city where, when a call comes in for the police, the police send two cars: one car of two police officers to go upstairs and answer the call, and the second car of two police officers to watch the first car for fear there'll be a bomb put in it.

Not more than a couple of weeks ago I was talking to a neighbour of mine. His son, who's some 14 years old, was standing on the corner of what I thought was a moderate neighbourhood with no crime, and there was a gun pulled on him. Fourteen years old.

I believe we have a system problem. The system comes from no jobs, drug problems that are just absolutely unbelievable, which I don't think any member really appreciates, and a system that has made it acceptable and financially viable not to work. If you don't think that is one of the most crushing and difficult systems to manage, you're wrong.

Fifteen years ago when some of us were still in high school, these problems were not there. These problems have long since passed us by as legislators. I don't think we understand, nor do we appreciate, what life is like as a teenager in Metropolitan Toronto today. I don't think we understand or appreciate what life is like in neighbourhoods in Metropolitan Toronto today. I think we all want to say the right words, we all want to placate those who live in those neighbourhoods, and we don't want to offend anyone who happens to brush with the law.

But I look at our ex-Lieutenant Governor, Lincoln Alexander. On the weekend, Lincoln Alexander said that there are people in our communities claiming to speak for groups who don't speak for them. We've got, in my opinion, premiers meeting associations and groups that I don't think carry weight in the community. The only weight they carry is their own voice. We've got a legislation that's unprepared to examine the real dilemma in our neighbourhoods. We've got a police association that isn't allowed to collect crime statistics based on race for fear of that being racially motivated or using those for improper use.

If anyone's been to school, they understand that problem-solving 101 is: Identify the problem, understand what the problem is. We don't even want to identify the problem any more for fear it isn't politically correct. We don't want to deal with the problem, we don't want to deal with the issue, and then we spit these people out the back door of our manufacturing plant of society. They go on to the streets uneducated, with a drug problem second to none in this country, with no incentive to work.

We say to the police, "Solve our problems; deal with this, do something about that," and the police throw their arms up in hopeless despair, afraid that if they don't take enough action the neighbourhoods get mad at them for drug dealing in broad daylight or under street lamps at night, and if they do take any action and the obvious happens, terrible things happen with what takes place. They're chastised for being too trigger-happy, in essence.

We have leaders in the community calling them "cowboys." I can't believe it. There may be some bad police out there—I don't have any doubt about it—but I don't think you could call the rank-and-file cop walking the beat a cowboy and all the connotation that brings with it.

What will happen is this—mark my words. We will have this debate today on this motion with the right words, the right phrasing, the politically correct terms, and we'll strike a committee made up of Stephen Lewis. We'll bring in a report in 30 days with the right words, the right phrasing, and they'll file it with the four other reports that have been written, and nothing will happen. Nothing will change. The streets are going to be unsafe. The drug dealers are going to be doing deals and the hopelessness will prevail. We'll have cries for a better social welfare system that takes away the incentive to work and we'll be perpetually circling our way down.

If you don't buy into this theory, walk out in the neighbourhoods—I'll give you a list of a dozen—and talk to the residents in those neighbourhoods. Ask them, "How do we resolve this problem?" They're saying today a very dangerous thing; a scary fact is coming out of these neighbourhoods. They're saying: "I don't care any more how you solve the problem. I want my neighbourhood back. Get rid of them, and I don't care how." That's what they're saying.

We'll sit here again and we won't be listening. We won't be resolving the problems. We won't be creating jobs. We won't be dealing with the issues that affect the constituents in Etobicoke and Metropolitan Toronto in general. We'll sit here and have another debate from another member using the same words, producing the same report and watching the same things happen.

This is not an NDP problem. This is not a Liberal problem. This is not a Conservative problem. This is our problem.

Whether you like it or not, in the towns and cities in Ontario, look at Toronto. That's your future in 20 years. Look at Toronto. It just happens to be bigger and it's grown faster. That's your future whether you like it or not, and how we deal with this problem will affect what the future Windsors, Londons and Ottawas look like, because

it's the same system, the same legislators and the same words.

I challenge any member in this House to walk these streets and come to a different conclusion than the one I'm offering. I challenge them to speak to the—I operated a store on Lakeshore in Etobicoke in what I considered to be a very good neighbourhood. It was a working-class neighbourhood. I represented it municipally. At night, once the sun went down, in the back alley drug deals took place every night: 14-year-old, 15-year-old, 13-year-old drug dealers. Not one word here and not one thing Mr Lewis will say will change it. They will do those deals again tonight and it will be dangerous. They won't want to work because they don't need to work, because we've taken the incentive away from working. Even if they wanted to work they couldn't get a job anyway. Even if they graduated they couldn't get a job.

Our system is broken. We're going the way of the American cities, whether we like it or not. Last Monday was a perfect indication of which way we are heading, so for me to stand here and disagree with what the Liberals have written would be unreasonable. Of course we agree with what the Liberals have written. Everyone agrees with what the Liberals have written. To say that I disagree with Mr Lewis being appointed—of course you agree with Mr Lewis being appointed. But you ask me, or you ask your constituents, or you ask the drug dealer, or you ask the kid who needs a job or you ask anybody who needs a job, "Do you think this'll make a difference in your life?" "Not one whit of difference."

1710

**Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming):** It gets us talking.

**Mr Stockwell:** The argument is that it gets us talking. We've had four reports previous to this one to get us talking. As I said before, it gets us talking and it just means more words. Until we can accept the fact that this system is broken—our system is so badly broken I don't know if it's repairable any more. Our system is broken and our cities are under attack. Every city in Metropolitan Toronto is under attack. There's not a city in Metropolitan Toronto you can turn to and point to a neighbourhood that's safe today. I don't care if it's York, I don't care if it's Scarborough, I don't care if it's North York, East York, Etobicoke or the city of Toronto; you can't point to one. I work in Mississauga too. There are areas in Mississauga as well. It's spreading.

**Solutions:** The solutions aren't going to be 30-day solutions and they're not going to be a nine-week job for a student this summer. That's not the solution. The solution, I believe, unquestionably, is to create a province where gainful employment is around if you want to work and a social service system that helps and deals with those people who truly need to be helped that doesn't make it—in my opinion it makes it acceptable; it takes away the incentive to work.

At least we need to hire more police. We've got to introduce tough drug laws. We as a province have to say that our city, Metropolitan Toronto, is worth saving. Make no mistake about it, this is the kind of war we're into.

We've got to accept the fact that our system is broken. I know that's going to be very difficult across the floor, because across the floor they've railed in opposition against the capitalist system. I believe it works and I believe creating the net we've created is taking away from the productivity people can have within that system.

Last—and again, it's not partisan but they are in power—they have the capacity to make decisions to change people's lives. I know full well these debates have taken place at municipal councils around Metropolitan Toronto for a decade. I know they've taken place at the Metropolitan Toronto Police Services Board for another decade. I see them now taking place in Ontario probably for the last decade. But to simply hide our heads in the sand and pass wordy motions like this, as if it's going to be some kind of defence, some kind of hope, I think is really fooling not only ourselves but the general public.

I ask that the parties get together and decide how best to fight this, but the first thing we are going to have to accept, in all parties, is the fact that our system is broken and that it's been broken for years. It's not working and we're not producing the kinds of citizens, from the young people, we want to produce.

I look forward to the comments made by other members in the House. I think we, as legislators, have to be very careful not to fall into the same trap we've fallen into for the past two decades; that is, simply produce another report, put it on another shelf, let dust collect on it and when the next horrible incident arises, form another committee to do exactly the same thing.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate?

**Mr Gary Malkowski (York East):** I've been sitting here listening to all the members of the House talking about social injustice and inequality. I think it's important for all of us to recognize that the problems we face are experiential, because we talk about the people who are feeling excluded, talking about our first nations people, people of colour, our youth, disabled people, even our senior citizens, francophones, people from various multi-cultural backgrounds who have all had this experience of being discriminated against and oppressed, perhaps linguistically, through their jobs, and not having the opportunity to participate fully in society. It is of concern.

Now the task is for us as a government to take up this challenge, to wrestle with social inequality and injustice to a result where we have a level of equality for all members of our society and all members of our province. Our government has made a commitment to employment equity which will include, of course, our first nations people, people of visible minorities, women and persons with disabilities to allow people to contribute to the working of this province. Of course the Advocacy Act, Bill 74, which includes people who are severely disabled, will enable them to speak out, will empower them to participate in the decision-making process so they can be fully autonomous, independent citizens.

If we take a look at the discrimination which has historically been foisted upon many members of our society, it's true a lot of the attitudes have come from the educational

system through the curriculum, where culture and history have not always been reflective of what has actually happened. We want to see the truth of the history of our province included, where all people in society see themselves reflected in the curriculum and in the educational system. It's important to empower and to support a system which is inclusive, not exclusive.

We want to talk about our government's commitment to the founding of human rights reform in this province, where we take a look at the struggles faced on access to the justice system by many members of society. We want those who have historically had inaccessibility experiences to become more accessible for the jury system and other kinds of systems.

Of course OTAB, the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, makes a commitment to include more people in terms of retraining and allowing people to go back to work, to develop their full potential and skills and to be included from a variety of groups. That includes not only volunteers but also those who have the experience and who may have historically been discriminated against in one way, to get a real chance at participating in a real job and then moving there way up in society.

We took a look at access to education in terms of youth employment programs, where we allow people to have experience and apprenticeship programs to get that first real job experience and allow people to improve their self-esteem and their own feelings of self-worth and to build on that so they can have a better, positive society where all people can come and work together. But of course it's a struggle then to remove those social imbalances which keep people from their goals. We need to remove the barriers that are there in society, whether that happens to be in terms of race or economics or education.

We need to provide better educational opportunities for all people in order that they can participate and share in the very rich traditional cultures which are our province. That only comes from respecting each other and allowing the institutions to reflect the society they represent.

I'm very proud that our government has made a commitment to the justice system in terms of jury selection. That will then reflect the community in the justice system and in those who sit on juries, whether they come from visible minorities or are persons with disabilities or whatever the target group, to show that the jury then reflects the wider society and that this is an action our government has taken.

1720

It's also important to make sure that we keep our commitment to child care reform, where working women and single parents can have access to jobs by allowing single parents then to have training and job opportunities by having a place for their children to stay while they move ahead in those areas. Having a real job and being able to participate in society goes a long way to that person being able to contribute fully to society.

Many senior citizens have experienced discrimination. Of course, we are now in the consultation process on long-term care and hearing from those various senior citizens' groups as to what kinds of services would best meet their

needs, whether it be with family, care givers, loved ones or friends, to see them come from institutions back into the community.

Our government has a commitment to making sure we fight to improve the social justice system and issues. Recently we were very proud to be informed that the member for St Andrew-St Patrick has been appointed as parliamentary assistant to the Premier, along with Mr Stephen Lewis, Canada's former ambassador, to review the system and meet with the various members of society to take a look at curriculum and jobs for youth. This is very important, so that, again, reflects those people to have a contribution so incidents we saw in the past won't recur.

Also, our government has made a strong commitment to providing the Ontario anti-racism strategy funding so people and groups can then get out there to fight the racism that's endemic in our society. We are supporting native peoples, visible minorities and various other groups that have a stake in this in order to change the educational system and in order to change attitudes that are out there so we can have role models for children in the community to look up to and they will then see themselves reflected in the role models and in wider society and then develop their skills as individuals to participate fully in society, thus having achievement and cooperation. I agree with this.

In summary, I want to ask that all members of this House respect the spirit of cooperation. Let's work together and contribute and work fully to give our full effort to improving the goal, of course, of social justice. I would call on all members to please cooperate to the best of our abilities to resolve inequality in our society. I'm very proud of our government's commitment to what we have done so far in terms of action. Again, I ask the opposition members, both the Liberals and Progressive Conservatives, to work with us to this end to achieve equality.

We've heard from the people, we've heard from you, we've heard from various people that the benefits that have to come can only come through contribution of people working together so that we can have freedom, peace and justice on the streets.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate?

**Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre):** Every once in a while an issue arises in this place that clearly grabs one by the soul and makes one question why one is in this place and what we can do to actually improve the life of the constituents whom we serve in our ridings, as well as other citizens outside our ridings.

It surprises me, actually, that the violence that took place on Yonge Street last week took that long to occur, when you look at the kinds of situations that people in this province face—not just persons of colour but all sorts of citizens in their day-to-day lives, in trying to make their way through life and trying to make something of a success of themselves and simply trying to exist.

In today's Toronto Star there is a column by Michele Landsberg. She talks about the kids running up Yonge Street. She says: "First of all, the kids who raced up Yonge Street smashing windows were not 'demonstrators' or 'protesters.' From everything I could see and read, they

were white and black and completely non-political—except in so far as looting consumer goods is an apt expression of rage at growing up poor in a consumer economy.”

I think these are the questions we have to ask ourselves as legislators: What kind of vision do we have to share with the province? How do we see this province being at the end of our terms of office? What can we do to make this life better for people?

In terms of the appointment of Stephen Lewis to the special inquiry and of Zanana Akande as the parliamentary assistant to the Premier, I think it's a good first start. I think we need to take a look at the issues not only with respect to race in this province; we also need to take a look at how the judicial system treats women.

I submit that there is not a single female in this House or in this province who has not at some point faced either sexual harassment or physical abuse by her spouse or within the family situation. These people have not been dealt with fairly in the judicial system, whether it's by the police and the fact that their spouses have not been charged when they come into the courts and the charges are dropped, or whether a sentence is meted out where the woman has spent longer in intensive care than the spouse has spent in jail.

These are the kinds of dichotomies that we have to address, and with the appointment of Mr Lewis and Ms Akande, I'm hopeful that these issues will not only be annotated for the attention of parliamentarians in this place but also that we'll begin to move on those issues.

#### **The Acting Speaker:** Further debate?

**Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean):** It is indeed a privilege to speak to a topic that I think is an extremely difficult one. I am very proud that my leader has chosen to put forward a motion that you could consider somewhat non-partisan, because I think it does justice to the seriousness of the problem. Frankly, I'm not here to suggest any easy solutions either by this government or by a government that is in our favour, or in fact by the Tories.

I think the things we saw last week point to a variety of concerns that require long-term attention. I can tell you that the apartment where I live here in Toronto during the week is very close to where the riot actually took place. Even though my wife told me not to go out, I did go out because I wanted to get a sense of what was driving the people to do what they did.

To be frank, what struck me most of all was the youth of the group, most of them obviously under 20 years, and second, the maleness of the group. The previous speaker already made reference to an article in today's Toronto Star by Michele Landsberg. Frankly, I'm not a particular fan of Ms Landsberg, but I think she did point out an important dimension that perhaps we've overlooked so far.

I'm a member of that sex, and I was, a while ago, a young male myself, but there seems to be something in young males when they're coming out of puberty that drives them to prove themselves through, unfortunately, violent or very aggressive behaviour. We see the same kind of occurrence in the accident statistics. Often we read in the newspaper of some very unfortunate accidents where

young male students are speeding off and endangering the lives of other people. I thought some of that element was present on Monday.

How do we deal with that? Frankly, it's not something that is new to this generation. It's not new to Toronto; it's not new to North America. It's something there that— young males have some problem. I guess they need some guidance to adjust to a new lifestyle when they move from youth to full adulthood.

That's a concern that's very dear to my heart, and I think that's an area all groups in Ontario society can do something about. Frankly, I'm not inclined to say government should be the first to act, even though obviously it has a role, and as critic for Colleges and Universities I will be addressing this a little bit later. But before I make a request of government and of the system of government, I want to say there's a role for the many voluntary organizations out there, recreation groups especially.

1730

I come from the riding of Nepean, and I am very proud and privileged because 25 years ago people in Nepean, politicians and others, recognized the significance and importance of recreational services and of the volunteer sector to give meaning and guidance to young people. An enormous number of young people, youth, are involved in sports activities of all kinds. The municipality, with the support of the province, has invested heavily in that kind of infrastructure.

When I come down here to Toronto—perhaps I haven't seen it; I may be mistaken—I get the sense that there is very little in terms of recreational infrastructure that draws in today's youth. If there's any focus in our reaction to what we saw last week, it should be on that: Build on the voluntary sector, on recreation groups, on sports groups, on cultural activities, and give them the opportunity to bring in the young people, and in that way give them meaning and give them something to do.

Mr Speaker, perhaps you will permit me, you above all, because in your previous incarnation you were a man of the cloth and I have some background in that as well. I think there's a role for the churches, and we should not overlook that as politicians. There is a challenge out there for the churches as to how they are dealing with youth and what they are doing to provide meaning and guidance and direction for our new generation.

That's what disturbed me most, that here we have a new generation showing wilful destruction. I think that's the most disturbing. While I was bothered by the racial aspect, I don't think that was really the most dramatic moment; in my opinion, it was the youth aspect. Afterwards on television and in the media when people were asked, “Why did you do this?” they said, “It was fun.” Wilful destruction was fun. That is a terrible message, because what is the next step?

We're losing one taboo after another. I studied some sociology, and the importance and significance of taboos in social systems is extremely strong. The protection of property and of life, the security of property and the security of life, are taboo, and if you break that, you're moving on to the next taboo. Where's the limit? That is also what

disturbed me greatly, that indication that it was fun to destroy. We have spoken often in this House about the significance of violence and family violence and sexual violence. I think all of that comes back into the same kind of situation and must be looked at in the same kind of context.

I want to leave some time for my colleague, but I want to mention that there is obviously one area where there is a role for government, and that is to make the educational opportunities available to all classes of society and to all backgrounds.

Again, what we're seeing at present disturbs me greatly. We're seeing tremendous waiting lists for people—as I said today in question period—to get into community colleges and universities. We're making it more difficult to receive OSAP, Ontario student assistance. All of that may not have an immediate impact on the groups we saw rioting last week, but in the long term I think it is a very dangerous trend and precedent we're setting.

At the legislative standing committee on social development we're studying OSAP and reviewing how the changes the government has put in place are affecting especially the underprivileged. Last night a representative of the anti-poverty coalition came to us and spoke about the tremendous negative impact of making it more difficult to get education, the negative impact on underprivileged people and especially those from minorities such as racial and income minorities.

I'm very concerned that in that area the government is unfortunately not moving in the right direction. I should say again that it is a very broad problem and a very broad concern out there and I wanted to put on the record a few of my impressions and thoughts on a very difficult issue. I thank you, Mr Speaker, for having given me the opportunity to speak.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate?

**Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford):** I am pleased to join in the debate today. I want to focus my comments on the issue that was touched upon in here about youth employment, or should I say youth unemployment, and opportunities for youth.

A week ago Saturday I had one of the more disturbing visits I've had with one of my best friends just home from university; he has just completed his degree in physics. His fiancée was there as well; she has just completed teachers' college. His younger brother was there, who's just completed a degree in psychology. His girlfriend has just completed her nursing program at a community college.

What was disturbing about it was the fact that all four of them, while completing post-secondary educational opportunities, do not have full-time jobs and for that matter do not have summer jobs lined up yet. In the meantime they may, but I found that very distressing and an eye-opening experience—let me say that at the very least—to know that these people have been unable to find permanent employment and unable to find summer jobs, because some of them may go back for more educational opportunities. I thought to myself that if the people with those educational opportunities are having difficulty, what about the untrained and unskilled people?

I think all governments have had trouble in dealing with the issues of youth, what it takes to be a youth or the challenges young people face today in terms of the mixed messages society constantly gives them, whether through TV or different media, from our adults in society, from those people in positions of power: "Don't do this," but people go and do that type of thing.

No government has really been able to get a good handle on that. I believe when the third party was in government it appointed former hockey player Ken Dryden to carry out a report; I think he was even made youth commissioner. I think they had at that time the former member for Brantford, who was supposed to be responsible for youth areas.

If I look back in terms of going through university and having been involved in student council, certainly keeping the former government accountable in these areas, I see that many of the opportunities have been cut due to budget restraints over the years. I'm going to say I don't blame just the previous government, because I think all governments are to blame.

I think a serious mistake was made at the time by the federal government in cancelling the Katimavik program, which gave some opportunity for some people who maybe had come out of high school, or were in first or second year at university but were unsure about where they were going with their future, to get involved in some type of experience, some type of opportunity in another part of this country. I believe cancelling that was a serious mistake.

1740

I think it would have been nice if the federal government in this, the 125th year of Confederation, could have come up with a similar type of program, because it was very beneficial. I know some of the specific summer student employment programs were cut back during the previous government over the years. I remember writing a letter to the former Minister of Skills Development and the member for Scarborough North about some of those cutbacks and being concerned about that.

There's no doubt that even under this government, with the budget restraints that are going on, ministries looking to meet their financial restraint requirements have looked at many of the programs where students would be employed. I'm not going to single out any specific ministry, but a lot of them have. I suspect some of the budget restraints on the tree-planting program will have an impact upon youth.

I try to bring all that together. With the recession and with what is going on there's no doubt there's a great deal of frustration out there among many youth. We tell them, "You can have all the opportunities." I know in certain sectors of society, in certain groups, there is even less opportunity. I don't know really what happened to it, but we used to—I think of my older brother in this case who came out of high school, learned a trade, became an electrician and is now running his own company as an electrician back in my riding.

I don't know what happened, but it seems the apprenticeship programs, trades programs and journeyman programs, or journeyperson programs, have declined over the last 10 or 15 years and there haven't been as many opportunities for

people to learn skilled trades. I don't know how that evolved, or maybe I should say devolved, into not providing as many opportunities. I certainly hope that once the OTAB system is in place it will mean we get back to those trades.

I've had people come into my office to talk about not being able to get into teachers' colleges. I know now that only one out of 10 people applying to teachers' colleges is getting in. That concerns me. People focus on getting into the teaching profession. So what are we doing? Are we not directing people in the right area? Business tells us we don't have the skilled professionals in different trades, particularly when you look at those that require maths, sciences and applied sciences. What are we doing? We need to look at that and why we aren't directing people into those areas. Can we provide more opportunities in those areas so that we can achieve our goals?

One of the other comments I want to make is that the Treasurer in his budget has indicated a significant allotment of funds for job creation, some of it long-term, some of it short-term, a lot for construction. He has talked about strategic use of those dollars and those funds. It's certainly my hope that both Treasury and Economics and those other ministries that will be responsible, particularly the Ministry of Housing for getting non-profit housing out there, can get these projects going and under way in the summer, so that at least we can create some employment in the construction field for our youth in all communities. That's not going to create long-term opportunities for them, but given the impact of the recession, I think it's important that we're able to get that.

I certainly hope the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, through the appointment of Dale Martin as a mediator, will be able to get projects going, so that we can at least create some short-term opportunities for the summer while we put into place the things such as employment equity and OTAB that will hopefully make a real difference over the long term.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate, the honourable member for York Centre.

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** It's an honour to conclude this opposition day debate on the motion presented by my leader and to speak to the issues that are before this Parliament. I have listened carefully to the speeches of most of the members who have spoken on this issue. I think perhaps it is appropriate to go back a few days and remind ourselves in this Parliament why we're here and why we're having this debate.

It was just about two weeks ago that, beyond all imagination, a jury in Los Angeles, California, acquitted four police officers in what was clearly, to everyone in North America, a brutal beating. That triggered a city. Los Angeles was on fire and all of us felt that pain here.

Ontario remained, for a few days at least, somewhat smug, in the way in which we have done for the past 200 years, and then part of the black community in Ontario decided it must speak out about this because the same things that were happening there, in some respects were

happening here. They organized a demonstration and they sat down and they said, "We want to be heard."

Emerging out of that demonstration, and in some respects unrelated, as some people have suggested, our children took to the street. Our children smashed windows and grabbed things out of stores and had one hell of a time—our children. I resent the fact that some people in this House have referred to them as "those people" and others have referred to them as "hooligans." They're our kids and they were on the street, and I think the very most appropriate remark was made by Jean Chrétien, the federal leader of the Liberal Party, when he said, "This is a wake-up call." Unfortunately, in this debate I don't think we've quite got to the topic yet.

We are not a racist state—Nazi Germany was a racist state; South Africa has been and still is a racist state—but we need to simply acknowledge and come to grips with and set aside our smugness and say to ourselves that in Ontario racism is part of the fabric, still, that we have as a people. Yes, we have policies of multiculturalism, and yes, we have programs and we have the Human Rights Commission, and Lord knows, one day the government will introduce employment equity, maybe. But race still divides us; race still separates us. Race puts us in different categories. Race too often is the determining factor between success and failure. Race labels us, and for a few minutes in this Parliament, let's say, "Yes, that's a reality, and we've got to come to grips with it."

Most of us are old enough to realize and remember that 25 or 30 years ago North American kids stood up and said, "We're not going to take it any more." Most of us remember Watts, most of us remember the killing of students at Kent State and most of us remember Selma, Alabama. Most of us remember Haight-Ashbury and Woodstock, and most of us remember our kids on Fourth Avenue in Vancouver and in Yorkdale here in Toronto.

Once again, our kids are standing up. They are our children. These hooligans, if you want to call them that, are our kids, and what we should be talking about in this debate is the fact that notwithstanding all the rhetoric from this government and other governments, we are allowing an underclass to develop in our society. Sometimes that underclass is determined by economic factors, sometimes that underclass is determined by colour of skin, and sometimes it's determined by a whole host of things. Too often, it's determined by age.

My colleague the member for Scarborough-Agincourt tries to remind this government almost every day of the week that 25% of our kids don't have work, but it's not just a matter of jobs any more. I'm sorry; if the government says it's going to answer it with a new jobs program, well, forget it, pack it away. Too many kids are saying: "You can take that job and shove it, because I don't want to have anything to do with your schools, and I don't want to have anything to do with your universities, and I don't want to have anything to do with your jobs. I don't feel part of what you believe in, down in your Parliament and on your Bay Street and on your University Avenue."

1750

We have a problem and we are not acknowledging that problem. These are our kids. These are our children, whether their faces be black, whether their faces be white, whether their faces be of whatever colour. That's not to say that all Ontario children are at risk, but we see more and more of this underclass which says: "Forget it. Your institutions don't interest me." At least during this debate we have an opportunity for a while to say that our institutions have lost their relevance to our children.

Our kids aren't going to change all that much, so it's our responsibility to start changing some of those institutions. Again, go back 25 years ago and look at some of the responses that came forward at that time. John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps. He gave literally, now after 25 years, millions of young people an opportunity to participate in a real way to change society. Even in Canada, Lester Pearson created the Company of Young Canadians, la Compagnie des jeunes canadiens. It was a vehicle, it was a brand-new vehicle. Kids ran it. Kids had an opportunity to work in communities in ways that were unheard of before that.

I'm sorry to say it, because I don't think this has to be an entirely political debate, but there is grave disappointment in what we've gotten thus far from this brand-new labour, socially minded, activist government. Before the campaign they said: "There's going to be no tuition for university students. It's too important." The tuitions go up. Before the election they said, "We're going to open up our workplaces." Bob Rae already had an employment equity bill, and what do we have? We have discussion, dialogue, obfuscation and every excuse under the sun to do absolutely nothing. The great crime of this government is not what it has done but what it has not done.

Our kids are sending a crystal-clear message. Go down and talk to the people who for so many years now have felt they do not have a role to play and that they don't have a stake in Ontario's society. Let us put ourselves in the shoes of the black guy who comes here and has been walking the streets for four years and still can't get a job. It's all very polite. Ontario is the most polite society I've ever seen. It's extremely polite: "Thank you very much for the application. We'll be calling you."

Put yourself in the shoes of the immigrant who's come from Pakistan, Afghanistan or from that whole part of south Asia. They come to my constituency office. These are my constituents and they say: "Mr Sorbara, it's so hard out there. It's so difficult. I get refusal after refusal."

If we can use this debate to further this agenda, then it's been a good idea. We've got to make some room here.

We've got to create some new space. We've got to build new buildings, new structures. They are going to look a little bit different, but we've got to get on with that. If we go down this course where it's all the Treasurer's Job Ontario this and Job Ontario that, it ain't going to work, I tell the Treasurer. There's got to be some more fundamental change. We've got to start thinking through these problems in a different way. We've got to start taking different approaches.

This is not Los Angeles, I agree. I think in Ontario we do a little better. Maybe that's simply my Ontario smugness; I'm not sure. I say to you that this wake-up call ought to alert all of us that we need to start thinking in different ways.

My kids are out there, your kids are out there, our kids are out there. Twenty-five per cent of our young people simply can't find work. More than that, there's a whole community out there that says, "Listen, there's nothing left for me here," so there are guns, there are needles in the arm, there's cocaine in the nose and there's crack in the lungs.

Let's start coming to grips with that. Let's stop saying that we can have a consultation process here and some development of a new program there. Let's us get into the street, let's us get down there, let's us start listening, let's us start talking to the kids, let's us start talking to those people who simply find it too terribly difficult to tolerate this dollar-driven society we so often champion in this House.

I think we have an opportunity here. As to those who were there committing crimes, let's admit that and let's punish appropriately. I'm not saying we simply abandon notions of law and order—heaven forbid—but there's a message there. The Tories were talking about the crimes. I think we need to be talking about the so-called criminals, what's going on there, why this is happening and what we have to learn from this. After all, there's no place we can turn. Once you get to this House, in this building, there's no place else to turn. No use turning to another level of government or asking the city to do more. It lies in our lap. Our children have sent us a message. I hope we've heard that message.

**The Acting Speaker:** Mrs McLeod has moved opposition day motion 3. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

**The Acting Speaker:** It now being near 6 of the clock, I do now leave the chair until 1:30 tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 1757.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Phillip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winner, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
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Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
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Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
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Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
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Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	<b>Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	<b>Cooke, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
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York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	<b>Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

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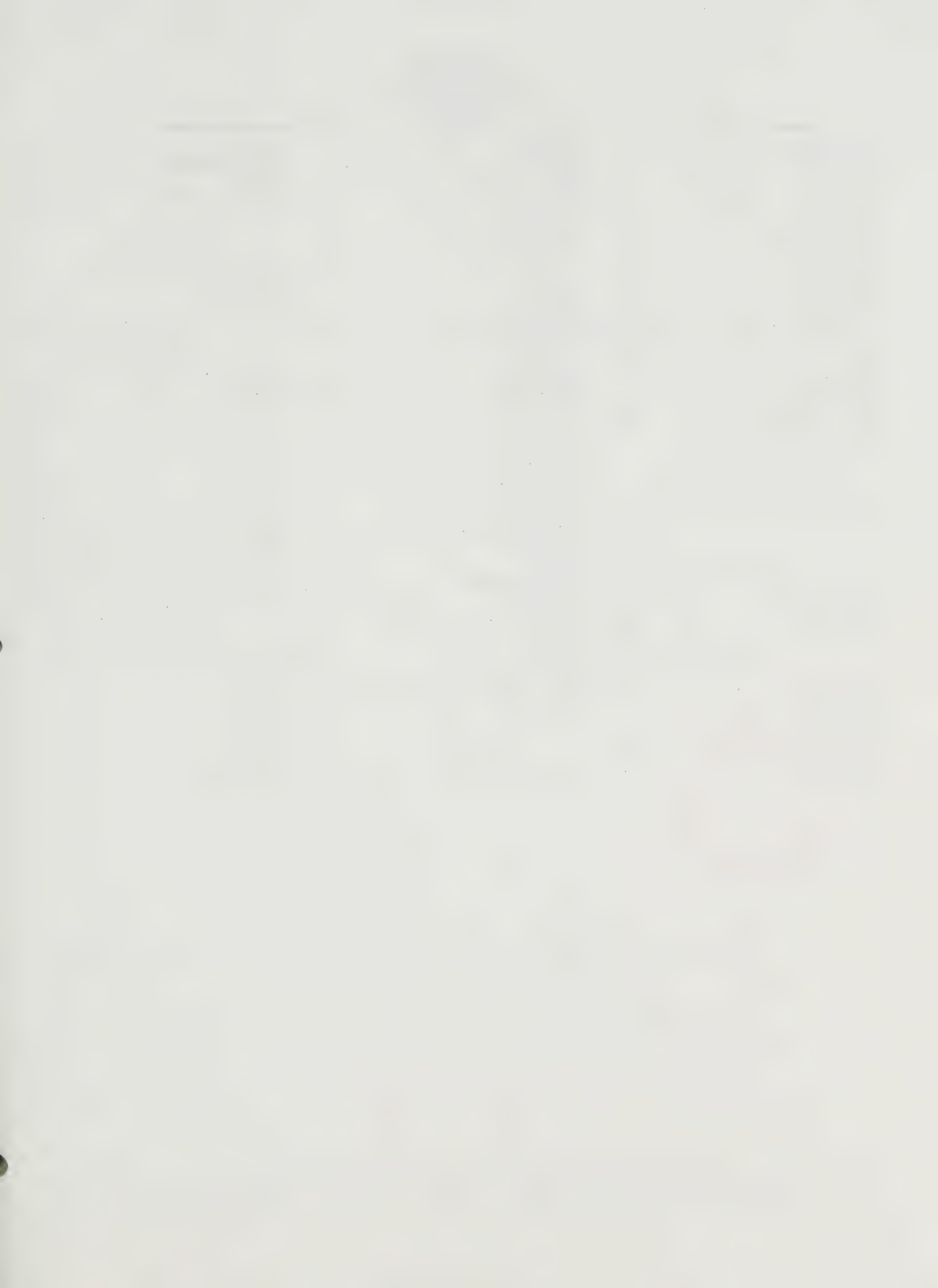
Chair/Président: Charles Beer  
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## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

## Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Wednesday 13 May 1992

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

## Journal des débats (Hansard)

Mercredi 13 mai 1992



Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers



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### **Index inquiries**

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Hansard numbering therefore becomes consistent with Orders and Notices and Votes and Proceedings, and with other parliamentary publications throughout Canada.

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### **Table des matières**

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### **Renseignements sur l'Index**

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 13 May 1992

The House met at 1333.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### SHEPPARD SUBWAY

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole):** I recently attended a third public meeting of the environmental assessment study for the Sheppard subway. This was an important opportunity for residents of North York, and in particular my constituents in Oriole riding, to review and comment on the preferred route and station locations and layouts for the proposed Sheppard subway.

During these discussions I was struck by two things. I was impressed by the fact that the residents of North York are actively participating in the environmental assessment process. They believe, as I do, that it's an important opportunity to discuss issues of public concern which affect our community. It was very evident that the Sheppard subway has overwhelming community support. All but three of the people who attended this public meeting supported this important Let's Move initiative.

During the many years it has been on the drawing board, the people of North York have consistently supported the Sheppard subway. They're very anxious for construction to begin. They recognize the Sheppard subway will reduce traffic congestion, support growth and create wealth in the cities of North York and Scarborough and be good for the GTA. In the next stage of the environmental assessment, a report recommending the route for the Sheppard subway is expected.

On behalf of my constituents in the riding of Oriole, I urge the government to expedite the construction of the Sheppard subway line. Let's move.

### MINISTER'S COMMENTS

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** My statement is for the minister with dual responsibilities for natural resources and native affairs. In the April 3 edition of the Sault Ste Marie Star, you indicated it is almost impossible to enforce resource laws if natives and non-natives hunt together. You were commenting on a proposal to bring a native Canadian into a hunting group to hunt on crown land.

You no doubt know that status Indians who carry green cards are permitted to hunt for personal use at any time, provided their actions do not threaten conservation. You suggested this would make enforcement almost impossible by making it difficult for conservation officers to determine who actually shot an animal.

You indicated there is nothing to stop natives from hunting with non-native friends. However, you said it is more appropriate for natives to hunt with other natives. Minister, you said: "We can't suspend freedom of association. However, it is rather undesirable to have that sort of association."

That is a completely outrageous and unacceptable comment to make. You are promoting building walls between two groups of people at a time when walls are coming down around the world. Your comments are especially outrageous when your Premier held a news conference recently to promote racial harmony. Minister, your behaviour is completely unacceptable and inappropriate.

### TOBACCO INDUSTRY

**Mr Norm Jamison (Norfolk):** I'd like to bring to the attention of the House a letter I received from a young student in the Tilsonburg area. I would like to read that letter today to show the importance and the realization young people have in our communities.

"Throughout the history of Tilsonburg, innovation has been a key factor in its development. The realization that tobacco could turn sandy wasteland into highly productive farm land changed Canada's future. The tobacco belt towns have flourished, building strong educational systems and communities for the future.

"Ironically, we did not learn the lesson the United States did during the prohibition years. Canada is still making millions off the industry established during a period of prohibition.

"An amazing statistic is that even with the 320% increase in taxes since 1985, plus all the health warnings, the number of Canadian smokers has only decreased by 2%.

"Agriculturists have explored finding a feasible alternative to tobacco, but none have equalled the profitability of tobacco. Like a pebble tossed into a pond, the direct and indirect effects in the midst of a recession are immense.

"Our citizens are grateful for your restraint by not imposing any additional taxes on the tobacco industry. We ask that in future you keep in mind the thousands of Canadians who benefit from the \$8 billion in tax revenue collected by the Canadian government annually."

### CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORP CUTBACKS

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** Many of us are avid watchers of CBC television and its news coverage. For many of us who look to the CBC to provide not only national coverage but local coverage, I understand announcements have been made that will bring local coverage on the CBC to an end, that as of 7 o'clock on Friday nights there will be no local news on CBC stations until 5:30 the following Monday. That there will be no local news from 11 o'clock at night on the CBC is, I think, an appalling situation for those of us who believe in the CBC as an instrument at least of discussing not only local but also national issues with a flavour for Canada.

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** So impartial.

**Mr Elston:** There are some times when partiality is often raised.

I regret that in my 11 years here I have attended meetings that have seen the drawback of national operations

like the railroads, as they remove themselves from the hinterland. I watched as the CBC withdrew itself from Windsor and other places. I watch as the post office withdraws its service from all parts of our areas. Although it is a federal-oriented statement, I note that the provincial government likewise is following in the same direction.

As we centralize our operations, I only wish that both levels of government would respond to the needs and the knowledge that outside large centres, there are people who need service and there are people who need information and news.

1340

#### ARTS AND CULTURAL FUNDING

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** Ontario's cultural organizations are threatened by a severe financial crisis. For instance, the Art Gallery of Ontario has been forced to close on Mondays and cut staff salaries by 20%, while the Ontario Crafts Council is having to sell off its building and lay off staff.

We have to wonder then why the Ontario Arts Council is granting \$62,000 for projects with trade unions. The program that I speak of, Artists and the Workplace, was introduced under the Liberal government and continues to flourish under the NDP.

Consider what some of this year's grants are for. One helps the Canadian Union of Postal Workers design posters and construct signs. Another is for the United Steelworkers of America to create employment equity posters. A third helps the Canadian Auto Workers union develop labour music and build a corps of CAW musicians. A fourth is for street theatre productions by the Toronto local of the Canadian Union of Public Employees. A fifth will fund the Peterborough and District Labour Council's production of an outdoor theatrical spectacle celebrating the "forgotten" history of the Canadian labour movement.

How can we explain to the many performing and visual arts groups who have been unable to obtain grants why these union projects are more deserving than theirs?

I call on the Minister of Culture and Communications to conduct an immediate review of the Artists and the Workplace program. With the limited funding available to our community arts groups, we must ensure that the province's money is wisely spent and fairly distributed.

#### TVONTARIO

**Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich):** Ontarians of all races and backgrounds passed through a trying and emotionally draining period last week. The demonstrations and disturbances that broke out here were, on one level, in reaction to the recent shooting of a black youth in Toronto. But on a deeper level they echoed the frustration of so many people in our society, racial minorities and young people in particular, who are saying, "We're tired of being hurt and we're tired of being left out."

We saw a lot of anger last week, and I would like to acknowledge the cynicism behind that anger. We also heard a demand to make our society a fair and decent home for every Ontarian.

In light of this, I would like to congratulate TVOntario for moving so quickly to stimulate thoughtful and intelligent public discussion about racism in Ontario. TVOntario, which is an agency of the Ministry of Culture and Communications, began airing an educational series of programs on racism last Friday in response to the recent events in Toronto. The programs, which continue every evening this week, are aimed at children, young people, adults and educators. La Chaîne will be doing programming on the topic of racial issues during the week beginning May 30.

TVO is to be commended for striving to inform the public and to stimulate discussion at every level: at home, in school and throughout our communities. It is a good first step. I would like to encourage TVOntario to take a further step. We need more programming of this kind, programming not just about racial minorities and others who feel marginalized in our society, but produced by these communities.

In addition, I would like to urge the Minister of Culture and Communications and other ministers to look at other concrete actions they can take to build on the need for improving race relations in Ontario.

#### ENDANGERED SPECIES

**Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin):** As members of the Legislature may be aware, according to the Endangered Species Act, the peregrine falcon is an endangered species in the province of Ontario. Over the past 10 years, the Ministry of Natural Resources has spent upwards of \$10,000 per year to ensure that this species is protected and is allowed to flourish within Ontario's natural environment.

I am taking this opportunity to inform the House that one of these birds was shot and killed near Atikokan last year. Considering the amount of money which has been spent by this ministry in protecting this species, it is disconcerting that the person involved was fined but \$25.

While a member of the opposition, the current Minister of Natural Resources argued strongly for a revision of the Endangered Species Act to increase the penalties for violating the act and extending the act to include many vulnerable species which are currently left off the list. Indeed, the minister in June 1990 introduced a private member's bill which was aimed at accomplishing this goal. Yet after 18 months in government, this Minister of Natural Resources has done nothing to strengthen the obviously inadequate penalties provided within the provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

The Endangered Species Act list includes, among other birds, the bald eagle, yet there are numerous other birds which are less common in Ontario's natural environment but receive no protection at all. The time for updating the Endangered Species Act is now and considering your past support on this issue, there are questions why you have not done so already.

#### ECONOMIC POLICY

**Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South):** My constituents in Oakville South and Burlington have responded to my request that they offer their economic solutions to the Premier

on how to solve Ontario's economic problems. Their responses have a recurring theme which sounded like a lesson from the Minister of the Environment: reduce, restore and recover.

Reduce taxes, reduce the deficit, reduce provincial debt, reduce the government workforce, reduce burdens to business so they can compete, reduce cost, reduce government waste, reduce hiring, reduce duplication of services, reduce meetings at luxurious resorts, reduce this tax, spend and inflationary spiral, reduce red tape, restore investor confidence, restore manufacturing jobs, restore health to the economy, restore a business climate in this province, restore entrepreneurial investment, restore job opportunities, restore a feeling of confidence in the future for all our people.

There's a big message in this 3Rs lesson from my constituents: Ontario is yours to recover. I say to this government, let's listen to the people of Oakville South and Burlington and let's make it work.

#### PETERBOROUGH ECONOMY

**Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough):** The pins my colleagues are wearing in the House today which say, "I am a recession buster," are the brainchild of the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce. Like other places, Peterborough has been hard hit by the recession. Businesses have downsized or gone under and workers have lost their jobs, but Peterborough has great community spirit and there is widespread determination to emphasize the positive and to work together to give our community a brighter future.

Our local media are looking for and featuring success stories, of which there are many to be found. Innumerable groups of volunteers are working in different ways to give help when it is needed. I can't mention every one, but in particular the Peterborough Network for a Healthy Community, the Peterborough Social Planning Council, business organizations and the media have adopted an optimistic but realistic outlook. People from all sections of our community are increasingly working together to help shape our future.

In all sectors we're replacing confrontation with cooperation. We're committed to a community where all people live together in health and harmony and where all have a chance to acquire skills which can then be used both to earn a fair livelihood and to enhance the quality of life for all.

I would like to thank the greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce for its leadership and all those citizens for taking this positive approach and working together for a better future. They are an example for Ontario.

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I seek unanimous consent to make some remarks on the passing of the late Paul Blundy, the former member for Sarnia.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Agreed? Agreed.

#### PAUL BLUNDY

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** On behalf of my Liberal colleagues I would like to very briefly express our condolences to the Blundy family in Sarnia. Paul Blundy was the member for Sarnia for one term from 1977

to 1981. He passed away within the last day. Paul certainly was someone I knew and worked with closely on a number of projects. His political career interestingly was one that was quite linked to another colourful member for Sarnia, Andy Brandt, with whom he contested a number of elections, both municipally and later provincially.

Paul was someone who had been very active in business in Sarnia as well as serving on Sarnia city council and also served as mayor of that marvellous community in southwestern Ontario.

To his wife, Catherine, to his daughter, Martha, and to his son, Paul, we extend our condolences. He will be remembered as a very fine citizen who served his community well, not just in Sarnia but here in the Legislature.

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**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** I'd like to pass along the condolences of my caucus to the family of Paul Blundy. I knew Paul from 1977 to 1981, and as you may remember that was a minority Parliament. At that time, there was really an opportunity for members to talk more frankly and to meet more frequently with each other. In a minority Parliament, reasonable things had to be worked out in order to reach a conclusion because the Conservative Party at that time did not hold the majority of the seats.

I found Paul Blundy to be a reasonable, logical man of integrity, and even though a member from my party eventually was victorious in replacing him in 1981, I think Paul served this Legislature well during his period of time here and we should respect his contribution made to our Legislative Assembly.

**Mr Bob Huget (Sarnia):** It is with sadness that I rise today on the passing of former Sarnia alderman, mayor and former member of this assembly, Paul Douglas Blundy. Mr Blundy suffered a heart attack on Monday, May 11, while walking through Canatara Park in the city he loved and dedicated his life to. Mr Blundy was 74.

Paul Blundy was born March 23, 1919, in Sarnia, and was a veteran of the Second World War, serving with the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve. Following his return from active duty with the navy, he cofounded McKenzie and Blundy Funeral Home with Donald McKenzie in 1946.

Mr Blundy was elected to city council in 1948 and served a total of 10 years as alderman, as well as six years on the Sarnia Hydro Commission. Mr Blundy was elected mayor in 1967 and held the office for eight years. In 1977 he was elected to the provincial Legislature and served as MPP for Sarnia until 1981.

He served with distinction as the Liberal critic for Consumer and Commercial Relations, as well as being a member of the justice committee. He also served on the select committee on company law. Mr Blundy belonged to the Sarnia Rotary Club, the Sarnia Liberal Association and the Knights of Columbus. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, branch 62, and of the Sarnia Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the board of St Joseph's Hospital.

Paul Blundy made a huge contribution to the city of Sarnia and its people. He will be greatly missed by his friends and all those he has helped over the years. Sarnia has experienced a great loss, the loss of a man who has been described as the epitome of public service and a real gentleman.

I wish to extend my sincere condolences to Mr Blundy's family and to all those who knew and loved Paul Douglas Blundy. He will be sorely missed.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I wish to thank the members for Renfrew North, Carleton and Sarnia for their kind and thoughtful comments about a member who served the Legislature with distinction. Your kind comments will be sent to Mr Blundy's family, and with them, of course, our deepest sympathies.

#### ATTENDANCE OF MINISTERS

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** On Monday of this week, the member for Mississauga West (Mr Mahoney) rose on a question of privilege. He informed the House that 10 ministers comprising 40% of the cabinet would be absent from that day's oral question period, thereby preventing members from holding the government accountable. The member was of the view that this amounted to an infringement of members' collective privileges, and in this regard he referred to standing orders 1(b) and 21(a).

Having had an opportunity to review the authorities and our precedents, let me refer members to the Hansard for April 19, 1977, where Speaker Rowe, responding to a question of order, made the following remarks (at page 623):

"[I]t is surely the duty of the executive council to see that there are sufficient members of the council in the House during the question period to make it meaningful. Certainly, the Speaker cannot be expected to take on this obligation."

On April 24, 1990, Speaker Edighoffer stated as follows (at page 729 of that day's Hansard):

"I have advised all members in the House on previous occasions that it is up to them whether they attend or do not attend, and it is not up to other members to draw their attention to that."

In reviewing our precedents on ministerial attendance in the context of privilege, I note that Speaker Turner stated in 1984 that the Speaker was not responsible for members' attendance in the House. (I refer members to page 3823 of the Hansard for November 5, 1984, and to page 4846 of the Hansard for December 11, 1984.) And in the first session of the current Parliament, I responded to a question of privilege raised by the member for Mississauga West by suggesting (at page 2671 of the Hansard for October 2, 1991) that the House leaders might want to address the issue of ministerial attendance.

I will add that our precedents also accord with citation 481(c) of the sixth edition of Beauchesne, which states (at page 141) that members should refrain from referring to the presence or absence of other members. Furthermore, citation 289(3) of Beauchesne states the following (at page 90):

"The duties of members have become extremely varied and members must travel frequently. The discharge of

those responsibilities will sometimes take a member away from the House. This absence from the chamber should not be the subject of comment."

In closing, I will say that although the concerns that were raised on Monday do not amount to a point of order or a prima facie case of privilege, I hope that all members will find these remarks helpful.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

##### AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

**Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food):** Today I'm pleased to announce an innovative, long-term strategy that will help renew and revitalize the farm and rural economy of Ontario.

As the Treasurer pointed out in the budget, we must respond to current economic challenges by working in partnership with the people of Ontario on new, innovative directions that will lead us back to economic stability and growth.

In keeping with the announcement made in the budget, and in response to the needs and concerns of Ontario's rural and agricultural communities, we are initiating a comprehensive agricultural investment strategy. The strategy comprises five initiatives and includes the recently announced commodity loan guarantee program.

As members may know, the commodity loan program will provide eligible farmers with a new source of affordable credit based on their crop insurance contracts and a 25% government guarantee on the total loan portfolio. In its first year the program is expected to loan out a minimum of \$50 million, and in subsequent years as much as \$200 million.

The program is unique in that it was developed cooperatively among farm and commodity organizations, input suppliers, financial institutions and this government. It is administered by a producer-run corporation that knows the business and can ensure that the program evolves to meet future challenges.

The four additional initiatives I'm announcing today indicate this government's commitment to an investment in economic renewal in rural Ontario. These programs include: first, a rural loan and agricultural mortgage pool program designed to encourage investment in rural and agricultural projects; second, a private mortgage guarantee program aimed at attracting more private investors to the agriculture and food industry; third, an agricultural expertise and education program to help farmers resolve financial difficulties, gain further knowledge of farm finance and farm law and enhance the role of credit unions and caisses populaires in agricultural lending; fourth, a farmer apprenticeship program to provide new farmers with opportunities to gain farming experience and build equity to eventually purchase their own farms.

Several government working groups have been formed to iron out the details of each program. As with the commodity loan program, we are working closely with representatives of Ontario's farm and financial communities. I'd like to thank these people for their valuable input and contributions to, and support for, our strategy so far. I look forward to continuing our cooperative efforts with all these groups.

Details of each of the programs will be announced as they are finalized. I expect that all programs will be implemented before the end of this year, with the exception of the rural loan and agricultural mortgage pool program, which will be implemented as a pilot program early next year.

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These programs will provide brand-new investment vehicles and will require substantial consultation and background research before their full implementation.

We are anticipating a total government investment of \$120 million over the next five years in these programs. This represents an effective use of public funds to encourage private sector investment and self-reliance in our farm and rural communities. Unlike the ad hoc government funding of the past, these programs will be stable, long-term and based on cooperative partnerships among the Ontario government, farm groups and the financial community.

The most striking feature of this strategy is that it was developed by and for the farm and rural people of Ontario. As members may know, one of my first initiatives as minister was to establish the agricultural finance review committee. The committee, headed up by my colleague Pat Hayes, the member for Essex-Kent, travelled across the province asking farmers what their needs were and, as important, for their suggestions on how best to address their needs.

This strategy is a direct result of that exercise. The spirit and much of the substance of the strategy come from the innovative ideas gathered both during the review and by follow-up consultation sessions.

This government recognized early the significance of our farm and rural communities in supporting Ontario's overall social and economic wellbeing. The \$17-billion agriculture and food industry employs more than one in 10 Ontarians and is second only to the automobile industry in contributions to our economy in Ontario. The industry also plays an integral role as the foundation of many of our rural communities.

In our continuing efforts to bring stability to our farm and rural economy I'm also pleased that the farm tax rebate program will continue as stated in the budget estimates.

With the agricultural investment strategy this government has made a decision to invest in the future of rural Ontario, to provide farm and rural people with an investment climate that supports innovation and self-reliance, and to build confidence in the growth of our rural economy rather than allow this important part of our society to crumble under the tremendous weight of current economic pressures.

There are several groups I would like to mention that have helped in the design of the programs I've announced today. They are the Christian Farmers' Federation of Ontario, the National Farmers' Union, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Union of Franco-Ontarian Farmers, the Ontario Farm Women's Network, Catholic Rural Life Conference, the credit union movement, and the Ontario Agricultural Commodities Council, all of which have

worked very hard in developing these programs cooperatively with us in the government.

I look forward to working with these farm and rural communities in the future. It is a very exciting strategy and I know it will be successful. I also had a meeting today with some of the key farm leaders, who had a sneak preview of what we've announced. I look forward to working with them in the future on this investment strategy.

**Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education):** I would ask the concurrence of the House to be able to make a statement updating members on the Carleton strike situation without a written statement.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Agreed? Agreed.

#### TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education):** I'm pleased to inform the members of the House that with the assistance of mediator Vic Pathe the parties have reached agreement in principle to terminate the strike and to submit all outstanding issues to voluntary binding arbitration.

I can further inform the House that on that basis we expect teachers to be back at school tomorrow. As we speak, the parties are continuing their discussions with Mr Pathe to develop a back-to-work protocol.

I want to certainly express my appreciation to the school board and the teachers' federation and obviously to Mr Vic Pathe for the work they have done in bringing a resolution to this issue. Although they have not been able to reach agreement on the terms of the contract, obviously this resolution is the next best thing and allows the resumption of school for the students.

The last thing I want to say is that we will obviously work with the school board over the next couple of days to ensure that the appropriate modifications to the school year are made so that the successful completion of the students' academic year is achieved.

#### RESPONSES

##### TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mr Charles Beer (York North):** Let's be very clear. There is no joy in what the minister has come to announce, because the system failed. You're playing Russian roulette and you've been playing Russian roulette with the students in Carleton, with the students in the Ottawa board.

You walk in at this point and tell us there is some kind of agreement, but you don't tell us anything about it. You say you're going to send it off to arbitration. We don't know what that is going to cost, but we do know what it has cost the students. To pretend that those students in the Carleton board have gained anything from this or from your inaction in dealing with this strike—the system, Mr Minister, has not worked.

We can't continue to have a system in which these kinds of negotiations go on right to the 11th hour, and then you walk into this House and, without telling us anything, say there's a settlement. Of course we are glad that the students are back in the classroom, but why did it take this long? You know full well that on Monday the Education Relations Commission said those students were

in jeopardy. We in this party and those in the third party have been saying clearly since last fall that if you go back to your announcement of the 1% transfer, there was the root and branch of your problems.

Minister, you can laugh and you can pretend that this is some great victory, but this is really a day of shame for the Ontario education system, because this is not a reasonable way in which to bring about a settlement. We have no idea what it's going to cost either the taxpayers of Carleton or the taxpayers of the province. We must have from you a sense of direction, vision and leadership of the school boards and federations so that the next time there is some kind of work disruption we're not going to have to wait, as we did this time, to see what is going to happen.

Minister, we're going to need commitments from you as to how this bargaining system is going to work in the province, because at the present time the focus, which ought to be on the students, is clearly not there. We cannot go through with all the various negotiations that are ongoing at the moment. We cannot look forward to having to go five, six, seven or eight weeks, where finally you come in at the last minute and say, "Glory be, we have a settlement." It's not on, it's not acceptable and it does nothing for the students of this province.

Minister, you have a responsibility to make sure that the students in Ontario are protected in that collective bargaining system. You have a responsibility to ensure that happens. You have not done it in any way in this system, in what has happened here today with your announcement.

Minister, we need leadership from you on this issue. We need to see what kind of stand you're going to take in terms of future situations of this kind. This is not a great day for Ontario education.

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#### AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

**Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand):** Although I thank the Minister of Agriculture and Food for his—

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order. The member for Brant-Haldimand.

**Mr Eddy:** Although I thank the Minister of Agriculture and Food for his—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Clerk, stop the clock.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** I ask the House to come to order. The member for Brant-Haldimand has the floor.

**Mr Eddy:** Although I thank the Minister of Agriculture and Food for his announcements, I am grieved that my suspicions are confirmed that this government does not understand the agricultural industries. Far too little, far too late. The government refuses to provide Ontario farmers with the capacity to generate an adequate standard of living, and we know there are lineups in Kent county by farmers for food banks—shameful.

The budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has been cut by \$30 million, and this is the first year that it

has been cut. There is no new money in this statement. The money is already included in the decreased budget at the ministry. Last year we spent \$50 million on farm financial assistance programs. This year it's only \$20 million. I assure the minister and the House that the farmers of Ontario cannot continue to produce many agricultural products at a loss.

#### TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** The 15,000 students in the Carleton Board of Education have been out for 28 days, so we can hardly say there is a victory today on the part of anybody in what has happened or what we have been told.

I only can say that if perhaps this minister had taken more definitive action earlier on we might not have had the children out as long as they have been out. I am glad, quite frankly, that this dispute is being settled voluntarily by both sides, if in fact it is as it is told by the minister. I'm glad it is being settled that way. I believe it will lead to an easier transition in terms of what will happen in the future for the students in the classroom.

I introduced a bill in this Legislature some three or four weeks ago, asking for the government to legislate the teachers back to the classroom. I believe the minister should have done that three or four weeks ago as well. However, we are told today that both sides have submitted to voluntary binding arbitration. I interpret that, Mr Minister, to mean that there is no option under this for the teachers to go back on strike in the next two years. He is nodding in the affirmative, so I assume that is so.

I am concerned, however, with regard to the process we have gone through. The mediator who was appointed before to bring this dispute to a close failed miserably, I think, because the mediator before came out of the mediation last Monday and acted like an arbitrator. He left the school board trustees in an untenable position. He offered, in my view, a deal which was far too acceptable to one side of the dispute. That side accepted it almost immediately, and it left the school board trustees in a very difficult situation.

I would hope the minister would either discipline that particular mediator or make it clear to mediators who are dealing with disputes that they are not to act as arbitrators and walk out of a meeting and say, "This side accepts what I have offered and that side has not." I was very much upset with that during this whole process.

I want to say particular thanks to the elected school board, the Carleton Board of Education. Those trustees sat through an unbelievably fiery meeting last Monday night when teachers attacked them verbally, asked for their resignation unreasonably and, in my view, lowered the esteem of the teaching profession in the Carleton Board of Education system even further than it already had been through the strike action.

I hope both sides can get back together. The Carleton Board of Education has been an exemplary school board in providing services to its students. I know that both they and the teachers can work together to provide a very, very first-class system for the Carleton Board of Education in the future.

## AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

**Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville):** In reply to the announcement by the Minister of Agriculture and Food today, we all know, and the agricultural community knows, that the commodity loans program is not working. There may be one bank that takes it on and that's all. Mr Minister, the idea's good; it's got to work. You're reinventing the wheel here in the rural loan and agricultural mortgage pool. The Farm Credit Corp tried that 15 years ago, as the minister well knows, and was never able to make it work quite well. Let's not reinvent the wheel.

Your ministry suffered a 6% decrease in budget. Some \$36 million was chopped. Over and above that, you had to provide \$12 million more to cover the farm tax rebate because of increased taxes at the school and municipal level. So how are you going to find these funds when we know you've announced programs that have been tried before and are not working? I'll try and help you to make them work, but I'm afraid this is not good news for agriculture.

## VISITORS

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Before continuing, I invite all members to welcome to our chamber this afternoon a former member of the House. Seated in the members' gallery west is the former member for Northumberland, Mr Howard Sheppard. Welcome. Welcome to another former member, the former member for Scarborough East, Mr Ed Fulton.

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** Just in case people didn't see where Mr Fulton is sitting, he is beside Rod MacDonald, who used to work on my staff and who's with us today in the House as well.

**The Speaker:** The member for Bruce is always helpful. It is time for oral questions.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

## RETAIL STORE HOURS

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is for the Solicitor General. In the ongoing Sunday shopping shell game we now hear that the Solicitor General himself, it seems a majority of the NDP caucus and indeed perhaps even the Premier now support changes to the Sunday shopping legislation. Given that this change of view has obviously occurred, will the Solicitor General now tell us when we can expect the changes to the Sunday shopping legislation to be introduced? Is it true that we're going to have to wait until the end of the session before we know what the government is going to do?

**Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General):** There has been no change to the legislation. If and when there is, I'll be pleased to advise the House.

**Mrs McLeod:** The views of the public on Sunday shopping certainly couldn't be more clear. It seems to us that the views of the NDP caucus on the matter of Sunday shopping have been made abundantly clear, but it seems equally that the views of the public don't count and it seems as if the views even of this caucus don't count.

Obviously the reason we are not going to find out about changes proposed to the Sunday shopping legisla-

tion is that the government can't make a decision until it checks with the people who have the real power in this province, the real decision-makers: the leadership of the union movement and the friends of the NDP.

It seems that the views of Julie Davis, the president of the Ontario Federation of Labour, are of special interest to this government. The views of Andrew Mackenzie, the Minister of Labour's son, seem to be particularly important. Julius Deutsch, the Minister of Citizenship's executive assistant, has a special right to comment on this issue, although the boss's views don't seem to carry much clout. Michael Lewis of the union movement, Lennox Farrell, all need to be consulted before this government can act.

Can the Solicitor General explain why non-elected, card-carrying NDP officials have more clout than he does, more influence on decisions than the elected members of this government?

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**Hon Mr Pilkey:** The party and the government have had consultations on this particular issue for months and months, including sending out a committee of the Legislature all across Ontario to solicit views and comments. That was followed by hearings right here in the Legislature itself, within the precinct, that went on for weeks and heard all kinds of representations.

We are quite proud of the fact that we, as a party and as a government, listen to the views of others and consult with people. We see that as quite a reasonable thing to do. If there are suggestions that this is not an appropriate way to govern, perhaps that's an avenue best left to others.

**Mrs McLeod:** I would assume then that the Solicitor General is suggesting that having consulted—although I recognize the first time they consulted they brought in legislation which was not responsive to what they were hearing from the general public of Ontario—they have now listened to the general public of Ontario again and have heard the public view that they should change their Sunday shopping law.

That therefore suggests to me that if this government is committed to leading on the basis of consultation, it is now ready to bring in the changes. There should not be a need to delay any longer. You've had the discussions among yourselves. You know you want to bring in those changes, at least a majority of you know. You know that's what the people of this province want.

I would suggest to the Solicitor General that governments are elected to lead. That's the government's job. It's not the job of a non-elected governing body of the New Democratic Party, if that in fact is the last body left to be consulted on this issue. It's certainly not the job of the powerful union interests; it's the job of this government.

We wonder what decisions this government needs to check with the NDP governing council. Did you need to check with them before making a decision on casinos? We weren't aware that you needed to check with them before making a decision on public auto insurance. We wonder why it seems you have to hold off on making this decision until you've checked with the governing council.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the leader conclude her question, please.

**Mrs McLeod:** Who is running the government of Ontario?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** I certainly could recognize the familiarity of the leader of the official opposition and the familiarity of that group over there with polls and reacting to them. Notwithstanding that, the law is a law on this particular issue; it must be obeyed and enforced. There has been no change in that view or that situation.

The fact that the government is assessing its policies and doing so on an ongoing basis I think is a reasonable thing for any government to do. The fact that there's a wide range of views in the general public or in caucus or within the party or anywhere else in this province is nothing new or nothing unusual either. At such time as the government feels any need to make any alteration in its policy, it will announce it to the House. In the meantime, there is no change other than the general discussion that is ongoing.

**The Speaker:** New question, the member for St George-St David.

**Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David):** I had a question for the Premier, but I read in the papers that he's hobnobbing around the world now. Indeed I saw he was having lunch with Senator MacDougall.

**The Speaker:** To whom is your question directed?

**Mr Scott:** He was having lunch with Senator MacDougall, talking about casinos. He's the president of a big beer company.

**The Speaker:** Would the member take his seat, please. The member's observations of world events are always well received, but I would appreciate it if he would place a question to a minister.

**Mr Scott:** Senator MacDougall isn't on the provincial council of the NDP, as far as I know, but he may be soon.

As the Premier isn't here, the question I have is for the Solicitor General. It's about Sunday shopping and it arises in this context. The Premier promised very early in his government that even though he had a small plurality of votes in the last election, he would make policy decisions in the interests of all the people of the province and reflecting all their views.

[Laughter]

**Mr Scott:** Members shouldn't laugh just because that hasn't happened, because it was the stated intention of the Premier. Over 70% of the people now favour Sunday shopping, particularly in Metropolitan Toronto and in the cross-border communities.

I want to ask the Solicitor General why this matter is going to be debated at the provincial council. The Treasurer said that if you don't debate these things and listen to the provincial council, you pay a price for it. Is it the purpose of this debate at the provincial council to persuade that council to abandon almost the last principle for which the NDP stands, or is it the purpose of that council meeting to induce it to oppose the policy so the government will not have to introduce these changes?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** The inputs that the government seeks are simply advisory in nature. The government retains the full right and the full responsibility of all final decision-making with respect to this or any other law in this House.

**Mr Scott:** I was much taken, as the people of Ontario were much taken, by the Premier's stated principle that the interests of all the people of Ontario would be considered, with a veto for nobody on policy changes. Why is he taking this important public debate to be considered by the provincial council? He didn't do it with automobile insurance; he didn't do it with half the other policy changes that fate has forced these bunch of ideologues to make. Why is he doing it here? What has Lennox Farrell got to do with it? What have Stephen Lewis's brother and sister? What has Evelyn Gigantes's father got to do with it? What has almost every defeated NDP candidate, most of whom lost their deposits, got to do with it? What has every president of almost every union affiliated with the NDP got to do with it? Can the Solicitor General and his party not make policy on this important issue, bearing in mind the public interest? Why is he taking this issue to a closed debate with an in-house crowd made up of the usual suspects who brought us labour law reform?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** I certainly have had representations from members of the general public. I certainly have had representations of mayors of municipalities. I certainly have had representations from the retail sector of this province and from shopping centre developers and a wide variety of people and interests. Why the member opposite would find it strange or difficult for us to speak to other Ontarians who may possess a view, I wouldn't know, but the circumstance has certainly been one of inclusiveness, and I don't understand why the member would have a difficulty with that.

**Mr Scott:** Perhaps I can ask a simpler question and hope that the minister can answer it. It has to do with my riding. I want the minister to know that I will vote for any bill that opts for Sunday shopping on a regional basis or in cross-border communities, as the minister may propose. I'm prepared to do that, but the people of my riding, particularly many new Canadians, have established literally dozens of mom-and-pop shops where the whole family works together, where they have made enormous investments to support an enterprise.

They will be in real difficulty if Sunday shopping is introduced, and they are terribly concerned that this issue is going to be decided by the likes of Stephen Lewis's brother and sister. They'd rather have Stephen decide it than these siblings they don't even know. They're very upset that Lennox Farrell is going to decide it and they're very upset that an NDP candidate they didn't vote for is going to decide it by this provincial council meeting.

What I want to ask the Solicitor General is, whatever changes he introduces, will he undertake here today that the mom-and-pop operators in my riding, who have made such a commitment to their businesses, will be fully protected?

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Scott:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I think the Attorney General should join in this debate on that very issue, before the question's answered.

**The Speaker:** One minister at a time. Right now, the Solicitor General.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** Mr Speaker, I can assure you that this government will attempt to protect the interests of all Ontarians and all people in retailing, whether they be large or small, in your riding or outside your riding.

I do find it incredible, though; it's almost amusing. I think the Liberal caucus opposite better leave the House, get a caucus meeting together and review what its position is, because I've been assailed by the likes of Mr Sorbara and other members over there who have suggested that they want these mom-and-pop shops and the major retailers open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and yes, Sunday. Now I hear there's concern about retailers being forced to open on Sunday. So I am prepared to respond to the members opposite, but I wish they would come to some conclusions.

1430

**Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South):** My question is to the Solicitor General as well. I read the headlines that say "NDP Caucus Backs Wide-Open Sundays," and according to one of the sources that has leaked out of the caucus of this government, "At the private caucus meeting, Solicitor General Allan Pilkey, Treasurer Floyd Laughren and Municipal Affairs Minister Dave Cooke backed the move." On August 15, 1991, during those hearings that you talked about, you told the Toronto Star the NDP would not budge on Sunday shopping. You said, "The principle of a common pause day is not up for negotiation." My question is this: Is this statement still true?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** The comments that are attributed are in fact true. They were made, they were meant and they were followed through on. I think the proof of that is resident in the amendments that were brought forward and the position adopted by the government at that particular time.

I would hasten to add, however, as I have indicated in the last number of weeks, as has other leadership within the government, that we continue to monitor public opinion on that, and in fact it has shifted considerably and dramatically. Beyond that as well, there has been heightened interest from the retail sector, which has indicated that because of the depth of this recession it is looking for any and all alternatives to assist it in that regard. The government has simply taken those altered situations and additional voices into account, determined that it is prepared to discuss them and recognize them and has therefore been reviewing the issue.

**Mr Carr:** The answer is that the principle of a common pause day is not up for negotiation unless the polls change, in which case it is.

I want to take another look at another position that changed. It's the NDP 1990 document that accuses the Liberals of flip-flops costing workers and families. It's a

press release of August 18 from the then Leader of the Opposition, the now Premier, who said: "Voters in Ontario are getting used to Liberals saying one thing during elections and doing the opposite after the ballots are counted. Taxes, free trade and car insurance are among the Liberal broken promises." I can assure you your list will be much longer, Mr Solicitor General. It goes on to further say, "And we've seen the Liberals flip-flop on Sunday shopping." I say to the Solicitor General, will you take a stand, will you take a position, will you tell us whether you will introduce legislation before the end of this session?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** Perhaps in response I might say that given some of the tragedy type impacts that have occurred in this province and indeed in this nation as a result of some of your friends in Ottawa, it's about time they flip-flopped on a couple of issues. We might all be better off if they did.

Notwithstanding that, this party did in fact enact common pause day legislation. It did so after consultation with the public and it did exactly what it said it would do. I don't think any government should be faulted for subsequently listening to the opinions of the public, having discussion on that and taking those new views and altered views into account.

**Mr Carr:** The fact of the matter is that isn't what you were saying about the Liberals in the summer on August 18, 1990. Let me read from that same press release:

"The Liberals knuckled under to pressure from the big supermarket chains and the big retailers. They dumped the issue of a common pause day into the laps of Ontario's municipalities and left families to fend for themselves. It was an embarrassing moment for the Liberals: A week earlier, then Solicitor General Joan Smith—the minister responsible—had said a municipal option was 'the chicken way' of dealing with the issue." It goes on to say, "She was right."

Mr Solicitor General, the chicken way out. Will you tell us today, have you changed your mind? Yes or no? What is your position today, Mr Solicitor General?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** First of all, I'm not sure whom to address over there, because there's a tremendous likeness between the two. Notwithstanding, I will address the member and his twin brother.

This government campaigned on a policy of a common pause day and worker protection. It delivered on that promise and that is the law today. The suggestion that any government that is in power wouldn't assess circumstances on an ongoing basis as circumstances alter and change I think is incredible; to suggest that anybody would be stuck in the mud in that position and be handcuffed from any and all considerations in the future. That's all that is happening. There has been an alteration, there has been a shift, and the government is simply assessing and discussing that alteration.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** My question is also to the Solicitor General. I will note that if there was a decent breeze in here, he'd be swinging.

To the Solicitor General, we understand you don't plan to take any action on the issue of Sunday shopping until

the NDP executive takes a vote later this month. Is this the same party executive that is so in touch with Ontario's economic fortunes that it has at various times wanted to nationalize Inco, the same one that wanted to eliminate the sales tax, the same group that said we should have publicly run auto insurance and also the same group that said, "We need a greater provincial presence in Nicaragua"? What a group. We now can rest, knowing the decisions won't be with this motley crew but with a circus. Could you please release the names of these NDP movers and shakers, so we can alert all those interested parties so they at least know whom they should lobby?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** I very much appreciated the question and the frivolity with which it was given. I'm not sure I have a serious response to that kind of question. I would say, however, that I think the people we will be consulting will be as equal to the task as those his party consulted, with respect to issues such as free trade, trilateral trade with Mexico and some of the difficult results they have created for people in Ontario who were formerly employed.

**Mr Stockwell:** You're ruling that's an answer? Okay. It's pretty hard to believe that's an answer, but we'll run with it.

This government didn't listen to its membership when it came to auto insurance. You just have to ask Mr Peter Kormos. It didn't listen to its party when it came to casino gambling. It's ignored its party principles on landfill sites; ask the Environment minister. Let's just face facts. You're using your own membership, this executive, as a scapegoat for not being able to take a position. That's the bottom line. You can't take a firm decision on Sunday shopping because you're stacked with your previous statements. We hear one thing from the Premier's office. We hear something else from you, the Solicitor General. We hear different views from your backbenchers.

Mr Solicitor General, just who's running this operation? When will we hear of a decision? For the people who are shoppers, who want to shop on Sunday, and for those who want to close, when will the final determination come? When are you going to show this much leadership?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** The short answer is that if there is any alteration, we will advise you of that circumstance. Let's be very clear, though, the law is the law. Nothing has changed in the enforcement directives that were given in January to police services boards. The government should not be faulted for regularly assessing its policies and its laws from time to time, as any government would be prone to do, particularly when there has been a significant shift in public opinion. I don't think there's anything wrong with, as I said earlier, our getting input and advice from the party, from business people, from the retail sector, from trade unions and from the general public. I don't see anything wrong with that; that's all that's being done.

1440

**Mr Stockwell:** I'd like to take this opportunity to enlighten the members opposite about the constitution of the New Democratic Party of Ontario. Article 14, "Discipline," is very clear: "The provincial executive, a provin-

cial constituency association, Ontario New Democratic Youth, shall each have the right to expel, suspend or discipline any member for any conduct contrary to the constitution or the principles of the party."

According to their own constitution, the only one who can't be expelled is Peter Kormos. We're working with you, Peter. These principles that this party has so proudly staked out as turf in the past are as recyclable as the paper they were printed on. We know you're caving, the public knows you're caving and you haven't got a principle left to stand on. Just give us the date when you're caving.

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** As I indicated, if and when there is any alteration to the Retail Business Holidays Act, I will so advise. Until that time, the law is the law; it's being enforced, and I must say, it's being obeyed by the major retailers of this province.

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** My question's also to the Solicitor General and it concerns this question of retail store hours. It is clear to all members of this Legislature that the retail sector in this province is in very difficult straits. I know in my part of eastern Ontario, in communities like Alexandria, Renfrew, Pembroke, Gananoque, Brockville, Prescott and Cornwall, many of those retail jobs are disappearing. The pain is palpable.

Yesterday we heard that Marks and Spencer is going to be laying off hundreds of people because of difficulties in the Canadian and the Ontario retail sectors. Surely, if for no other reason than jobs and creating wealth in this province, the Solicitor General, as the minister responsible, will admit that the current situation, for whatever ideological reason, is not working and that it's costing jobs. Will he not today, if for no other reason than for those people at Marks and Spencer—

**The Speaker:** Would the member place his question, please.

**Mr Conway:** —and thousands of others like them who are either out of work or about to lose their jobs, admit it's time for a change and the time for that change is now?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** I understand the sincerity of the question, but I think the question ignores some other very salient facts with respect to retailing and the profitability or lack thereof in this province at this particular time. There is a recession throughout North America that is impacting all retailers, not only here but in the United States where some of the very largest retail chains have had to seek clause 11, if I've got the right clause, with respect to bankruptcy laws in the United States.

I don't think this is an Ontario phenomenon in any way. There are other reasons, which the member I'm sure would be well aware of. Shopping centre developers overbuilt the amount of retail space in this province by some 30% while the population had only increased by 5%, and so an imbalance was created there and perhaps not some of the very best business decisions taken.

With respect to other decisions, he mentions Marks and Spencer. I was simply reading from the newspaper articles where one looks at the product mix or the origin of where a product is bought and how it's marketed successfully or

unsuccessfully, or the locations in terms of metropolitan markets versus smaller markets.

**The Speaker:** Would the minister conclude his remarks.

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** These decisions are not necessarily to do with Sunday shopping, but are decisions that are taken corporately, and unfortunately or fortunately, they will have to live with the result.

**Mr Conway:** Mr Speaker, the duly elected member for Sault Ste Marie is right when he reports to the Legislature and to his colleagues in caucus about what's happening in places like Sault Ste Marie, because it's happening in Windsor. It's happening in my part of the province. You would have to be a blithering idiot not to pay attention to what people like the member for Sault Ste Marie are reporting.

Sunday shopping is clearly not the only answer, and I don't offer it as any kind of panacea. But if the ridiculous situation in which this Legislature now finds itself is allowed to continue, the government and, I'm embarrassed to say, all of us are going to be debased even further, because we're going to be seen to be regulating that which will not admit to the kind of regulation this government, for whatever good and ideological reason, sought to impose a year ago.

Will the minister responsible give this House an undertaking today that this week he is going to move to respond to the perfectly legitimate and very democratic impulses that the member for Sault Ste Marie is bringing to the caucus in the interest, if not of ideology, of jobs?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** I think the member opposite should be encouraged by the fact that there exists here a government that is aware of the shift in public opinion and that has been allowing discussion within our own caucus, by the fact that there are other people being consulted, and that the government, if it decides it is in the public interest, will return with some alternative situation. But at the moment that is not the case; it is not other than study, other than input and other than review. Therefore, the existing law is clear and it's being maintained.

I agree with the member that there are many other considerations beyond Sunday shopping that are impacting the retail sector, and they may be much more telling than the impact of this one particular element.

#### TEACHERS' CONTRACTS

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** I have a question for the Minister of Education. In Ontario 70% to 80% of teachers' negotiation contracts are not resolved by the contract expiry date. There is no other field of collective bargaining where we would have 70% to 80% of the contracts not concluded by the expiry date.

Mr Minister, I know you're aware of your own standing committee on public accounts. This is the 1991 report. Recommendation 8 states:

"The current 'localized bargaining system' for teachers shall be the subject of a Ministry of Education review. This process has raised concerns among teachers, trustees, administrators and the Ministry of Education."

Mr Minister, my simple question today is: When will you begin a review of what is commonly referred to as Bill 100?

**Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education):** The issue of Bill 100 is, quite frankly, one that keeps surfacing in a number of places. I think we will need to begin to take a look at that issue. I've certainly heard concerns expressed about it both from teachers' federations and from school boards.

I intend over the next little while to begin some informal discussions with representatives of both school boards and teachers' federations around some issues we might want to begin to address, recognizing that at this point I'm not sure whether a full-scale review of the legislation is appropriate. But I certainly would indicate to the member that some of the issues, particularly around some of the time lines, are ones that do concern me as well as minister and I think are ones that need to be looked at.

**Mrs Cunningham:** Just to remind the minister, in the 1984 Macdonald commission report there was an observation that expressed concerns with the present localized collective bargaining system. This is a piece of legislation that has been around this province since probably 1975 or so. I think most bills of that duration that directly affect our children and our schools are certainly worthy of very serious scrutiny, especially when a standing committee states it.

I have another question subsequent to that. Right now we have about 150 boards currently negotiating for the fall. It's my understanding, asking around in my position as critic for the Progressive Conservative Party, that the process has been slow because boards and teachers are at such opposite ends. Well, I bet they are.

1450

Mr Minister, you know your government set out these guidelines at 1%, 2% and 2% over the next three years and we know that is a reality. If that's what the directions are and we already have problems reaching a collective bargaining conclusion date by August 31, I don't think the minister's response was appropriate or responsible, so I'm going to ask him again.

I asked you what you were going to do about Bill 100. Forget it. What are you going to do about the collective agreements that are not going to be settled by August 31, so we don't have another Elgin strike, another Ottawa strike or another Carleton strike next year for our students? What are you going to do now?

**Hon Mr Silipo:** It is my understanding that the number of collective agreements the member is concerned about is in fact not that many in the context of the total number of collective agreements that exist throughout the province that haven't been settled. I'm not even sure I would agree with the premise of the earlier question about the comparison in the education sector with other sectors. But I certainly stand to be corrected if my information on that is not accurate.

In the normal course of negotiations, I think we need to understand that sometimes it takes longer for agreements to be reached. I've indicated that I have some concerns

with respect to the time lines. That's an issue we need to address and I intend to start some discussions with representatives of teachers' federations and school boards around that issue.

#### TORONTO SYMPHONY

**Mr Will Ferguson (Kitchener):** The thousands of patrons and volunteers connected with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra are very concerned about the deficit situation the orchestra finds itself in. I understand that as a result of the deficit they are going to have to cut back on summer programming; they are going to have to cut back on summer recording sessions—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** To whom is your question directed?

**Mr Ferguson:** To the Minister of Culture and Communications. They are going to perhaps have to entertain some staff layoffs. I'm wondering if the minister could advise the House what she plans to do about this situation.

**Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications):** As with many other members of the cultural community, the Toronto Symphony is experiencing some financial difficulty due to economic pressures we all are aware of.

I would like to point out, though, that in 1991-92, at a time when municipal and federal governments were pulling back on operating expenditures, the provincial government increased to the Ontario Arts Council, to their base, \$7.5 million, which was an increase of 15%. The Ontario Arts Council is the agency of my ministry that gives funding to the Toronto Symphony.

On top of that, I would like to point out—

Interjection.

**The Speaker:** Order. Thank you. Minister.

**Hon Mrs Haslam:** That was in 1991-92, for those who didn't hear me say that. The OAC is an agency of the ministry and does support the operational budget of the Toronto Symphony. Also, the ministry itself gives financial programming—

Interjection.

**The Speaker:** The member for St George-St David.

**Hon Mrs Haslam:** —to the operations, in particular to their touring, to the value of \$320,000.

**Mr Ferguson:** If in fact the Ontario Arts Council does not provide the assistance that's necessary, I think the people connected with the Toronto Symphony will want to know whether the minister will intervene in the matter.

**Hon Mrs Haslam:** The Ontario Arts Council is an agency of my ministry and as such it is an arm's-length agency. I cannot interfere and tell them who to give money to. I can't believe that the members in this House expect me to go to one of my agencies and tell them who I want to give grants to and who I don't want to give grants to. If that was the case, I wouldn't be giving grants to them.

**The Speaker:** New question. The member for Halton Centre.

**Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre):** I'd like to welcome the Minister of the Environment back from Europe, but my question is to the Minister of Health.

**Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte):** On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: Did I understand the Minister of Culture and Communications to say that if it were a member of the opposition and she had her way, she wouldn't give him any grants? I wonder if I could have clarification on that.

**Hon Mrs Haslam:** Mr Speaker, I withdraw that. I'm just saying they can't expect me—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. Will the member take his seat. Minister.

**Hon Mrs Haslam:** Is that a question?

**The Speaker:** No. The member for Quinte rose on a point of privilege. I acknowledge the minister was contributing to the point of privilege. Has she completed her statement?

**Hon Mrs Haslam:** No. I would never think of doing that. It's very evident in all of the grants that it's—what I'm trying to say is that the criteria are there and they are not to expect me to interfere and say where the grants go. I cannot do that.

**Mr O'Neil:** Another point.

**The Speaker:** Another point of privilege?

**Mr O'Neil:** I think it's a very important point when the minister would stand up—I think Hansard will prove out that she did say that if she had her way none of the members of the opposition would get any grants at all from the Ontario Arts Council.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. To the member for Quinte, I appreciate the matter you've raised. It is not a point of privilege. However, it certainly might be the subject matter for question period, which is where we currently are. The member for Halton Centre was recognized to have the floor.

1500

#### HEALTH BUDGET

**Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre):** My question is to the Minister of Health. As you know, the announcements that were made in the health mini-budget on Monday have added to people's fears that the poor, the elderly and the sick will have reduced access to medical care in Ontario. By the end of this fiscal year the minister will have chopped \$832 million in existing services out of health care. There's no confidence that the impacts of those cuts have been analysed or appreciated.

Furthermore, the chops have been made unilaterally without the advice of those who would provide recommendations that would make the system work better, with more cost-effectiveness and keeping the principles of medicare intact. The minister has cut \$38 million from the funding of tests performed by commercial laboratories with no apparent understanding that it is physicians who order the tests or why they may be needed.

We want to know where the advice the minister received that led to this decision came from. Did it come, by example, from the New Democratic provincial council? We know it didn't from physicians and specialists. We know it didn't come from commercial laboratories. We know it didn't come from consumer groups. We know it didn't come from any report that's being completed, because she hasn't issued the report yet. Where did the minister receive her advice? Did it come from the provincial council?

**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health):** I rarely engage in cheap shots at opposition members. I'm tempted to say the member doesn't know very much, given the comments she made. Let me go back to the statement she made, where she said we are attacking the vulnerable and the elderly. We are not. Let me go back to the statement she made that there's no confidence we can undertake these kinds of reform and restructuring and save these sorts of dollars. My experience, in travelling across this province and talking to health care partners and talking to consumers, hospital CEOs, physicians and nurses, is that in fact there's a great deal of confidence that we can undertake these kinds of reforms. So I'd ask the member to stop the rhetoric. Let's deal with the issues.

She talked about the commercial laboratory sector. In fact, there have been discussions that have taken place. The measures we are taking at this point in time are to put in place a utilization formula where tests grow beyond a certain level that could be related to the demographic growth in the community. One of the reasons we feel we are able to do that is that with the greater centralization of laboratory tests and computerization, the costs per unit test have come down. We think that at a certain point we can actually discount that. There are savings to be had there, which right now accrue to the commercial laboratories in terms of profit. We believe that profit should be saved to the taxpayers of Ontario.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Supplementary.

**Mrs Sullivan:** No one believes you can cut \$832 million out of the health care budget without having an effect on the delivery and access to services for people who are poor, who are old and who are sick.

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** Only CBC Metro Morning.

**Mrs Sullivan:** In the health care document the minister has indicated that a laboratory review "will promote the use of public health and hospital laboratories." Once again, the minister has signalled that the review will not be a thorough one and that the outcome has been prejudged, just as it was in terms of the decision made on the cutting of fees.

We want to know, however, if this is a signal put forward on the advice of the NDP provincial council, which is unaccountable and unelected, that you intend to put private sector laboratories out of business, and that ideology is once again overtaking the agenda as it did in your decision on child care. I ask the minister if she is telling the House whether commercial laboratories have a place under their government in this province.

**Mr Bradley:** And will we hear this on Metro Morning?

**Hon Ms Lankin:** Again, the member's attempt at being witty is failing miserably.

Let me say that we have a number of examples where we believe that through better management, and with respect to laboratory testing as well, we can show we are saving money right across the hospital system. Let me cite that just yesterday we released the latest reports from the Scott task force with respect to thyroid testing and guidelines for physicians around when those kinds of tests should be ordered.

A previous report that was released during the time that the Liberal government was in power and the member for Oriole was the Minister of Health had to do with tests for cholesterol. Those sorts of guidelines for physicians for when they order tests are very helpful in terms of bringing down costs of unnecessary tests. We think we can look to the hospital sector, where there are lab tests or X-rays that need to be redone, where in fact money is wasted as a result of that.

The member talks about cuts to the health care system of \$800 million.

**Mrs Sullivan:** Are you putting the private sector labs out of business?

**The Speaker:** The member for Halton Centre.

**Hon Ms Lankin:** What we've been trying to do is accomplish a slowing down of the rate of growth of the costs of health care. It's very important that we do that in order to preserve our health care system.

Where I would agree with the member is in the very important goal, which we all share—

**The Speaker:** Would the minister conclude her response, please.

**Hon Ms Lankin:** —of preserving medicare and of ensuring that there's an accessible system for the elderly and for the vulnerable. I am as dedicated to that as the member opposite.

#### ROAD MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** Unfortunately I'm asking the Minister of Transportation a question. He has the reputation of being the Hans Christian Andersen of this House, but after the Minister of Health's last statement, hopefully we can get a succinct answer.

Minister, each year your ministry allocates supplementary funding to the municipal roads program. Municipalities are most concerned about knowing whether they're going to get some supplementary funds this year. Can you tell us when you're going to announce them?

**Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation):** Yes, one more time, I certainly welcome the involvement. Indeed, when we're talking about supplementary allocation, money that flows from the treasury to the Ministry of Transportation and directly to address the nuts and bolts, those particulars that are not addressed elsewhere—

**Mr Turnbull:** When? Tell us when?

**Hon Mr Pouliot:** When you're asking, "Tell us when?" if you will have the decency to let me answer, I'm about to give you the answer you're seeking.

The timing couldn't be better, for I have the final application. It will allow for ample time to go through the bidding process, to follow due process. It's a matter of a day or two, and the announcements are forthcoming indeed. It's a massive allocation this year.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Supplementary.

**Mr Turnbull:** We'd certainly like to know what "massive" means, but I don't think this assembly has enough time to listen to the answer to that.

I notice, as supplementary, that in this year's budget we're talking about a \$2.3-billion program on the Jobs Ontario capital fund, with this year's allocation being \$500 million. The interesting thing is, we have an existing program, the transportation capital fund, which calls for more money to be spent on transport. By the time you break down that amount of money among all the ministries, there's more money being spent on transport today.

I'd like an assurance from the minister that we're going to get at least as much spent on roads as he spent last year. We want the commitment that indeed Premier Bob Rae said: that he's going to carry through the infrastructure program and that it's not just going to be a reannouncement of a reannouncement. Where are the funds?

**Hon Mr Pouliot:** I'd like to commend the member opposite. Today is his lucky day indeed. He is most insightful, which is a departure from form from the conglomerate across. The member is absolutely right. He knows about the multiplier. He knows about shovelling the ground. He knows about our intent to put people back to work. He knows about the work that needs to be done.

He's read what the Treasurer had to say in terms of being innovative to raise new forms of capital, returning the money to flow from the province to the marketplace to build bridges and maintain roads, to say nothing of our usual programs such as winter maintenance. In fact, we are more confident that out of the \$500 million that will be spent this year Transportation will have one more time its rightful place under the sun. It will put women and men to work in relatively short order.

#### PROTECTION OF IN-CARE RESIDENTS

**Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold):** I've got a question for the Solicitor General. The Grandview Training School For Girls has been the subject matter of government coverup for over 20 years now. As long ago as 1968 the NDP member for Beaches-Woodbine raised his concerns about the violence and abuse that was going on at that place. The then Minister of Correctional Services, Allan Grossman, dismissed the complaints and criticized the opposition member for having the audacity to speak that way about one of the province's training centres. Since then there's been an investigation in 1976, one conducted by local police.

I appreciate that criminal investigations are finally currently taking place in view of the just incredibly horrible and violent assaults on young women—very young women, children—who were crown wards, who expected

and had every right to expect the comfort and security of being a crown ward.

My concern, though, is about the 1976 report and the fact that it is being kept under wraps. The issue here is the issue of coverup. Why won't the Solicitor General permit the people of this province, permit those victims, those survivors, to know what happened in 1976? Who prepared that report? Who conducted the investigation? Whom was it distributed to? Why weren't charges laid then?

**Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services):** I would be only too anxious to respond to the question from the member, but the information he seeks falls under the purview of the Minister of Culture and Communications and I would ask her to respond directly to his request.

1510

**Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications):** I'd like to give a little background. It's under my ministry, Culture and Communications. In February of this year the archives located, after an extensive search, an investigation report prepared in 1976 by the Ministry of Correctional Services. After consulting with legal counsel, the Archivist of Ontario decided, under the personal information and law enforcement exemptions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, not to release the report.

This same approach was used and followed under similar police investigations of the St Joseph's and St John's training schools, which also relied on records at the Archives of Ontario. The archivist's decision reflects the belief that the public interest is best served by allowing the current administration of justice, including present police investigations, to proceed unhindered by public disclosure in the media.

**Mr Kormos:** Bullfeathers. I remember asking very similar questions to the last government about St Joseph's Training School, receiving the same answers and our party not being very satisfied about the answers then. There are survivors. There are victims. We know there's a criminal investigation taking place. Hopefully criminal charges will be laid against the culpable people. We're talking about coverup here. We're not talking about the issue of criminal investigation.

Maureen Forestell, a bright young lawyer in Toronto who's been retained by these survivors pro bono—no fee—is struggling to obtain access to their own personal files from the Ministry of Community and Social Services or the Ministry of Correctional Services. She's being stonewalled.

I tell you, Mr Speaker, that sort of pat, scripted answer is no satisfaction to those young ladies, to those victims, or any other victim of sexual violence in this province. I want to know why this minister won't alleviate the stonewalling that persists even with this new government.

**Hon Mrs Haslam:** I am very concerned. I can understand why the member is concerned, because it does deal with very emotional issues, but I'd like to remind the member that once the police investigations are completed and the matter has been settled in the courts, which is what

he said, the archivist can reconsider the original access decision, as the law enforcement exemption will no longer apply. Requesters not satisfied also have the right to immediately appeal the archivist's decision and ask for an independent review by Ontario's information and privacy commissioner.

#### TAXATION

**Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt):** My question is to the Treasurer. It has to do with members of the government using taxpayers' money to, I think, deliberately misrepresent the budget. I have a copy of, I gather, a document sent out to the residents of Dovercourt by the member for Dovercourt. It says in the document, "Ontarians making \$53,000 a year or more will see increases in their personal income taxes; the other 90% of Ontarians making less than \$53,000 will not be affected by these changes."

The Treasurer will know that's not true. The Treasurer will know that in this year, this very year we're talking about, people making \$40,000 a year, people making \$25,000 a year, people making \$20,000 a year, people making \$10,000 a year, all of them will pay more personal income tax. The federal government gave a reduction in personal tax and then, Treasurer, as you know, you took that back, and twice as much. You tripled what the federal government had given to low-income earners in this year. The document the member for Dovercourt sent out is totally incorrect. Low-wage earners are paying more taxes this year.

Seeing as public money has been clearly used to misrepresent the budget and to mislead the people of Ontario, I would like to know from you, Treasurer, what steps you are going to take to ensure this misrepresentation is corrected by the members of your government.

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** I haven't seen the document to which the member refers. I would appreciate having a look at that. I would like to make a clarification, however, on exactly what the comparison of the tax rates is in 1992 and in 1993. This is putting all the changes together, not simply the personal income tax, not simply the surtax, but also building in the federal government's changes on the PIT as well, on the income taxes—

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** No, you can't do that. The federal government gave them a break, and you took it back.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I didn't know that the member opposite could tell me what I could or could not do in my answer, but if you don't want me to answer the question, fine.

**Mr Sorbara:** Okay, so you misrepresented.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order, the member for York Centre, would you withdraw the remark, please?

**Mr Sorbara:** Mr Speaker, I said there was a misrepresentation. That is the subject matter of the question. It is the subject matter: whether or not there was a misrepresentation of the information sent out by the Minister of Edu-

cation, the member for Dovercourt. There's nothing to withdraw here.

**The Speaker:** What would be helpful is if the member would allow the Treasurer to complete his response, and his own colleague might have an opportunity for a supplementary.

**Mr Sorbara:** I would be delighted to hear what answer the Treasurer is going to give to this very important question.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Would you stop the clock for a minute, please? I listened carefully. The words I heard suggested to me that there was a very strong difference of opinion. I did not hear the member saying the Treasurer had misled the House. At the same time, I must caution all members that any language which leads to disorder is out of order and unparliamentary, and further, it's very helpful to question period if members would try to use temperate language. Among other things, we may get a few extra questions in. Treasurer.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I shall have undying gratitude to the member for York Centre for allowing me to respond in the way I think is appropriate, and with which he will agree. It is an act of enormous generosity on his part. It was a serious question from his seatmate, unlike his interjections.

In 1992 the changes in the tax system were as follows—I don't know whether the member opposite was thinking of married or single, because it does change the equation a bit: for a single person earning \$10,000 a year, unthinkable but nevertheless, the net change in taxes would be a \$5 increase for the year; at \$20,000, a \$20 increase; at \$25,000, \$30; and so—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I will try to answer what I think was a serious question. If the members don't want to hear the answer, that's fine; I don't have to give it.

For a one-earner married couple with two children, for \$20,000, \$5 less in taxes for 1992; at \$25,000, \$95 less; at \$30,000, \$30 more; at \$40,000, \$55 more.

When you move into 1993, which—

Interjections.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I don't know why you are being so wrangy today and won't let me answer a very straightforward question with a straightforward answer.

For 1993, which is the real year in which the federal and provincial combination of taxes takes place, for a single person everyone up to \$50,000 would have an increase in tax; for a one-earner married couple with two children, at \$20,000, \$25 less; at \$25,000, \$95 less; between \$30,000 and \$60,000, no change whatsoever; and above \$60,000, \$50 more, and so the scale goes up after that.

I think the member opposite should at least allow me to paint the entire picture before he starts trying to shout down my answers.

**The Speaker:** The time for oral questions has expired.

1520

## NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

**Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The question I asked was clearly that the householder misrepresented. I am unsatisfied, Mr Speaker, with the response. I would request—and later you will get it in writing, which I gather is what you require—an opportunity for what I gather we call the “late show” here, an opportunity to explore the answer in more detail at the end of one of our sittings.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Indeed, the member has a point of order, and perhaps he would file the necessary document with the table.

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: As one of the obligations of House leaders in this place, it is necessary for us from time to time to consider seating arrangements of the members of this forum.

We were greeted this morning, on seeing the newspaper reports of meetings of the caucus of the government party, that there was tremendous breakup. Prior to there being some difficulty in being able to sit in their current positions, I am wondering if you could tell us whether independent members of the New Democratic Party caucus would have to sit in the far corner of the House together or if they would be allowed to intersperse themselves, as they currently are, when they vote against the government on the Sunday shopping bill. It's necessary for seating arrangements in the House, sir.

**The Speaker:** The Speaker has many duties, but I'm not sure that one of them is rearranging the furniture. I do appreciate the point you have brought to my attention.

## PETITIONS

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** I have a petition today signed by 26 employees of the Graham Fiber Glass Ltd company in Erin in my riding. The petition reads as follows:

“To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent, empirical studies of the impact that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments.”

## MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

**Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand):** I have a petition to the Legislature of Ontario, signed by 34 residents of the county of Middlesex in the city of London:

“Whereas the report of Mr John Brant, arbitrator for the greater London area, has recommended a massive, unwarranted and unprecedented annexation by the city of London;

“Whereas the arbitration process was a patently undemocratic process resulting in recommendations which

blatantly disregarded the public input expressed during the public hearings;

“Whereas the implementation of the arbitrator's report will lead to a destruction of the way of life enjoyed by the current residents of the county of Middlesex and will result in the remnant portions of Middlesex potentially not being economically viable;

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

“That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London.”

I have signed it as required.

## FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South):** I have about 10,000 signatures from the greater Hamilton-Wentworth area as part of the now about 125,000 signatures on the petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

“Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

“Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

“Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

“We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately.”

That, as I say, is about 10,000 for today, and it has my signature of support.

## NOISE POLLUTION

**Mr Donald Abel (Wentworth North):** I have a petition here signed by approximately 172 members from the riding of Wentworth North. It reads:

“To the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, Canada:

“Whereas over the past four years the residents of the town of Ancaster and nearby communities have experienced serious noise pollution from airplanes flying over their residences or workplaces, said airplanes having taken off from or being about to land at the airport in Mount Hope, Ontario; and

“Whereas the said noise pollution has often been disruptive, causing loss of sleep and contributing to ill health

and reduced ability to enjoy real property and to function as human beings in home and work environments; and

"Whereas the town of Ancaster, the regional municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth and the government of Canada, despite being asked repeatedly, have all failed to take action to protect the abovementioned residents from the deplorable and avoidable noise pollution;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, Canada, as follows:

"To take whatever specific action is necessary, including but not limited to undertaking a full environmental impact study on the Mount Hope airport to ensure that the abovementioned residents are not subjected to the said noise pollution at night or at any other times."

#### RENT REGULATION

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** I have a petition regarding the Rent Control Act, Bill 121:

"The proposed Rent Control Act, Bill 121, will prevent apartment owners from carrying out necessary major repairs to residential rental buildings;

"This bill, if enacted, will result in the private sector being unable to build new residential rental housing, with an ensuing loss of tens of thousands of jobs;

"This bill will ensure that the non-profit housing sector will be the only builder of new residential rental units, at enormous cost to the Ontario taxpayers;

"This law, if enacted, will be detrimental to the interests of tenants and landlords across the province; and

"The rent-freeze legislation, Bill 4, has already put thousands of workers on the unemployment rolls and Bill 121 threatens the permanent loss of 25,000 jobs;

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"To cancel the proposed Rent Control Act; to encourage the government of Ontario to work with tenants, landlords and all interested parties to develop a new law which will be fair to all, and to ensure that in this new legislation the interests of housing affordability and tenant protection are balanced with a recognition of the importance of allowing needed repairs to rental buildings to be financed and completed and the role of the private sector in the construction of new rental housing."

I affix my signature thereto as well.

#### REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** I have a petition with 160 signatures. It's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations;

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a quick-fix solution to its fiscal

problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

#### RENT REGULATION

**Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton):** I have two pages of petitions signed by the residents, the tenants, at 770 Hager Avenue in Burlington. These tenants have said:

"To the Legislature of Ontario:

"Whereas the proposed Rent Control Act, Bill 121, will prevent apartment owners from carrying out needed repairs to apartment buildings; and

"Whereas this law, if enacted, will be detrimental to the interests of tenants and landlords across the province; and

"Whereas the rent-freeze legislation, Bill 4, has already put thousands of workers on the unemployment rolls and Bill 121 threatens the permanent loss of 25,000 jobs;

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"To scrap the proposed Rent Control Act; to encourage the government of Ontario to work with tenants, landlords and all interested parties to develop a new law which will be fair to all, and to ensure that in this new legislation the interests of housing affordability and tenant protection are balanced with a recognition of the importance of allowing needed repairs to rental buildings to be financed and completed."

I have signed the petition.

1530

#### FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville):** I have a petition signed by over 2,400 Ontarians.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act,

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

#### REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

##### STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Mr Runciman from the standing committee on government agencies presented the committee's fourth report.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Does the member wish to make a brief statement? Pursuant to standing order 104(g)(11), the report is deemed to be adopted by the House.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### MOTOR BOAT OPERATORS' LICENSING ACT, 1992

#### LOI DE 1992 SUR LES PERMIS D'UTILISATEURS DE BATEAUX À MOTEUR

Mr McLean moved first reading of Bill 17, An Act to provide for the Licensing of Motor Boat Operators / Loi prévoyant la délivrance de permis aux utilisateurs de bateaux à moteur.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** I just have a brief explanatory note. The bill, which applies only in respect of motor boats propelled by engines of at least 25 horsepower, prohibits the operation of such a motor boat by any person who does not have a motor boat operator's licence.

The bill requires every person to carry a motor boat operator's licence while operating a motor boat to which the bill applies, and to produce it when requested to do so by a police officer. If unable or unwilling to produce the licence, the motor boat operator is required to give the police officer his or her name and address.

The bill creates the offences of careless operation of a motor boat and impaired operation of a motor boat. A person who contravenes any of the provisions of the bill or certain regulations made under the bill is liable to pay a fine not exceeding \$1,000 and in some cases to have his or her motor boat operator's licence suspended or revoked.

### LEAD ACID BATTERIES RECYCLING ACT, 1992

Mrs Sullivan moved first reading of Bill 18, An Act to require the Recycling of Lead Acid Batteries.

Motion agreed to.

**Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre):** Some members of the House may recall that this bill was presented to the House in the last session. It was considered in members' debate as Bill 26, received second reading and died on the order paper.

It's a bill that requires the recycling of lead acid batteries and the involvement of the manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers and consumers in the full-cycle process. It has the support of retailers and the international battery council and is in effect in many other jurisdictions. I believe it is a bill of some importance and I would like to have it presented again.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### RETAIL SALES TAX AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

#### LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LA TAXE DE VENTE AU DÉTAIL

Mr Johnson, on behalf of Ms Wark-Martyn, moved third reading of Bill 130, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la taxe de vente au détail.

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole):** As the Revenue critic for the official opposition, I rise today to begin the debate and the discussion on third reading of Bill 130, which is the Retail Sales Tax Amendment Act of 1991. I would like to take a few minutes to explain to people in this House

who are here today for this debate, as well as those who may be watching on the parliamentary channel, what this piece of legislation is about; also, if I could, to share my concerns and, as is my responsibility as critic, to appropriately and properly criticize from a number of different perspectives.

The first perspective from which I believe criticism is warranted is the overall policy that this legislation represents, and as well during the debate, as I have on other issues, I will be offering constructive alternatives and advice to the government. I will hopefully, during my debate on this piece of legislation, be able to hold them accountable by making sure that anyone who is watching this debate fully understands the implications of this legislation so that he too can question the government's policy—tax policy, fiscal policy, economic policy—which I think is fundamentally flawed.

The issue of Bill 130 implements the NDP's budget policy of extending a gas guzzler tax on new automobiles. This was originally announced in the first budget of Treasurer Laughren, the first budget of the NDP government in April 1991. It is still before this House today because it represents such a misguided fiscal policy that I believe the prolonged debate is an opportunity to alert the public to what we believe is in fact damaging to the automobile sector of our economy and our society.

This tax—that's what it is; it is a revenue bill, it is a tax—has been called by some the tax on auto workers.

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** Who would have said that?

**Mrs Caplan:** That phrase was coined by my colleague the member for St Catharines, who has the major General Motors facility in his riding. On numerous occasions, as he referred to this as the tax on auto workers, he explained what this would mean to General Motors, to the workers in the automobile industry who were going to be impacted because of this so-called gas guzzler tax on auto workers, Bill 130.

1540

This piece of legislation levies additional taxes on the purchasers of new cars. We are all aware of the state of the Ontario economy. We know that we are hopefully at the end of the worst recession in the province's history in many years, since the days of the 1930s and the Depression.

I have said on occasion in this House that I believe the recession has been prolonged by the misguided economic and fiscal policies ideologically driven by the New Democrats, and this is probably the best example of the kind of initiative that has slowed the recovery unnecessarily for the people of this province and has hit an industry that is fundamental to the economic prosperity, the creation of wealth and the overall economic health of this province.

As Mr Bradley, the member for St Catharines, has so often said, this tax on auto workers is killing jobs. We know what's happening with General Motors; we know what's happening within the auto industry and what Mr Bradley proposed and what I support and would like to suggest today as an alternative to this tax. There's still time. This bill has only been put before us today for third

reading. The government could still withdraw this bill and it could replace it with an incentive for the public to purchase new cars.

There are many precedents for this. It would not only stimulate the economy and the auto industry and protect jobs, but also have the additional benefit of removing from the roads environmentally unsafe, older clunkers, gas guzzlers. If you really wanted an environmental bill that was going to resolve the issue of emissions and inappropriate gas use through inefficient engines, surely to goodness this government would understand that it could do that by replacing those old cars with unsafe emission standards, those old cars with inefficient engines. By doing that it would increase the revenues that would have been produced by this piece of legislation through increases in its retail sales tax, because retail sales tax is levied on those automobiles already.

This tax on tax, this additional tax on the purchase of new cars is a message to the consumers of this province and it's the wrong message. At a time when we want to instil consumer confidence, when we want to say to consumers that now would be a good time to buy a new car because that would be good for the economy of Ontario, that would stimulate economic growth, that would help with wealth creation, that would help to lead us out of the recession we are suffering from, this legislation which we are discussing today in third reading sends exactly the wrong message.

Under this legislation which was a part of that budget of 1991 revenue has been collected already by the Ministry of Revenue since the budget that announced this initiative. Over the course of the last year when we were all hoping we would see an economic recovery, which we didn't see, when we were hoping that with consumer confidence we would be seeing an economic recovery occur in this province faster and stronger than any of the predictions at the time were suggesting, this legislation, the dollars that were collected from the consumers who purchased new cars over the past year and the number of people who did not purchase new cars because of the additional tax, because of the additional cost, because of their concerns about the lagging recession, has ended up costing this province jobs.

We have not seen the kind of thoughtful presentation from the Minister of Revenue or the parliamentary assistant which would in any way justify this kind of legislation at this time. We know there is a very big difference between the way this piece of legislation is being introduced and implemented and what was originally contemplated by the first tax of this kind, which was implemented during the time of the government I served in. I'd like to explain the significant difference in policy.

It's important to note that the Liberal gas guzzler tax was only targeted to the minority of cars with the highest fuel inefficiency. That's very important to note. It was primarily designed to exact a premium from, and discourage, those luxury purchases and foreign-made automobiles such as Rolls Royces, Ferraris and cars of that nature. That is a very different kind of initiative. In fact, I would argue that policy was good for the car industry in Ontario, because it was designed to discourage the purchase of foreign

luxury cars, fuel-inefficient cars, and encourage the purchase of Ontario-made, North American-built cars. That was the policy at that time.

This change is very significant, because the other difference between the tax that was instituted during the time of the Liberal government and this tax is that our tax was not a major source of government revenue. It produced minimal amounts of money. It was designed primarily as a policy initiative that would encourage the purchasing of Ontario-made and Ontario-built cars. It was designed to send a signal out to those people who were purchasing foreign-made luxury cars. I believe it was a very significant and successful policy initiative. It was not designed as a tax grab. Bill 130, this bill, is a tax grab, clear and simple, and I'll show you the difference.

This tax says that for cars whose litres per 100 kilometres average between 8.5 and 8.9 litres, the tax is an additional \$200. That proceeds gradually through 9 to 9.4 litres at \$700; 9.5 to 12 litres, \$1,200; 15.1 to 18 litres, \$4,400, and over 18 litres, \$7,000. Under the original NDP budget plan, the tax rate was doubled and the tax was extended to cover vehicles with consumption rates down to 8.5 litres per 100 kilometres. The tax was also extended to include sport and utility vehicles.

This tax hike had been denounced by management and unions alike, including Bob White and Ken Harrigan. We all know who Bob White is; he's the head of the Canadian Auto Workers. Ken Harrigan is the president of Ford. It was also denounced by the head of the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers' Association. The tax was criticized as being unfair because it penalized sport and utility vehicles often used by families which have no other choice of vehicles, and that is particularly large families driving minivans and northerners and farmers using their trucks and off-road vehicles.

This NDP tax on auto workers captured many vehicles built or partially built in Ontario, including the Chrysler Magic Wagon, with its automatic transmission, several Ford products, including engine plants in Windsor and St Thomas, the Chevrolet Lumina, the Buick Regal, built in Oshawa, as well as the Suzuki Sidekick. It is now basically extended to all full-size vehicles, including four-wheel-drive trucks.

#### 1550

General Motors has estimated that the original budget version of the NDP gas guzzler increases would hit 21 of its car models and as many as 32 of its sport utility vehicles, such as four-wheel-drives. Ford estimated it would have 15 models affected. Chrysler, although it said there were fewer of its models affected, was also very concerned about the policy of NDP Bill 130.

According to the Ontario Automobile Dealers Association, an additional 202 vehicles would have been hit by the budget announcement of the NDP automotive tax. The budget version of the gas guzzler resulted in Ford reconsidering plans to relocate production of its Bronte line to Oakville. Ford estimated that the tax would have cost it \$50 million and 3,000 lost vehicle sales of its 1992 models.

Even the environmental groups agreed that the tax-only approach is not necessarily the most effective way of

helping the environment. Friends of the Earth said that a better program would be to also offer tax rebates to purchasers of fuel-efficient vehicles; exactly the proposal that was put forward by Mr Bradley, former Minister of the Environment, who understands the opportunities that are possible when you look at encouraging economic development and protecting the environment at the same time.

The idea of a tax rebate to encourage the trade-in of fuel-inefficient or environmentally unsafe older cars is not a new concept. It's not something of which Ontario would have even been able to say, "This is leading edge, new policy, ground-breaking ideas." The state of California has had that kind of policy in place and it is working. The NDP government in Ontario could have achieved two policy objectives rather than simply raising revenues and having the potential I've just outlined in my remarks of having such a negative and serious impact on a fundamental industry in Ontario.

When we look at some of those projects that have been piloted in the United States, what we find is there are what they call scrap-car programs to encourage owners of older vehicles to turn them in for scrap purposes, allow those old cars to be recycled and reused so that we could reduce the emissions. Where have we heard that before: Recycle, reduce and reuse? We've heard that from the Minister of the Environment of the NDP government. We've heard that from Mr Bradley.

Yet, this Bill 130, this policy of the New Democratic government, flies in the face of those environmental goals, because this bill will not cause older vehicles to be scrapped. This bill will not encourage trade-in. This bill will not encourage people to go out and purchase fuel-efficient, energy-efficient and environmentally sound new cars. This legislation discourages that. That shows how misguided Bill 130 is.

The Liberal official opposition has raised concerns about Bill 130 and this new tax on numerous occasions over the course of the past year. We were particularly concerned with the original proposal that was in the budget. As a result of our appropriate action, our appropriate criticism and our appropriate questioning, the Treasurer, under real pressure, re-examined his proposal. He finally held a series of consultations.

I believe some of the problems they had originally with that first budget were a result of inexperience. We said so at the time. It was a government that didn't expect to be elected, that didn't know how to govern. But this is almost two years later and we still see proposals that are left out, that were drafted at a time when the government was inexperienced and didn't understand. You would think that now, after having time to reconsider, this government would realize you can withdraw those misguided proposals. You don't have to follow through. The public wants you to do what's in the public interest. The public wants you to reconsider.

We heard today a debate in the Legislature during question period where everyone was saying, "Look, rethink your position on Sunday shopping, just as you rethought your position on other public policy matters." So during this debate on Bill 130, I'm saying to the government,

rethink your position on this gas guzzler tax. Rethink your position, because this is not going to achieve the policy objectives that are in the public interest in Ontario.

Even though the Treasurer went back and made some initial adjustments to his original proposal, I don't think the changes have been good enough. We know there were a number of consultations that went on. As a result, the Treasurer introduced changes to his budget, to the gas tax, and the minister introduced Bill 130 to implement the new policies. The basic effect of the changes was to lower the rate of the tax for many vehicles, but to extend its range to a wider range of vehicles; again totally contrary to the kind of message you want if what you're really looking for is an environmentally friendly tax, totally contrary to what you really want if you want to encourage new car purchases in the province.

The changes in this tax have changed from being targeted to only the worst gas guzzling vehicles to covering most vehicles. With this piece of legislation, Bill 130, you now no longer have a gas guzzler tax at all. The previous policy of the former government has been sent to a landfill dump, probably soon to be established in the member's riding. I see him smiling opposite.

1600

**Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West):** We can always give you another ski hill, Elinor.

**Mrs Caplan:** Yes, we're going to see.

In all seriousness, and this is a very serious debate, Bill 130 is not at all what it was purported to be. It is not a gas guzzler tax. It is, as Mr Bradley, the member for St Catharines, has said so eloquently on numerous occasions, a tax on auto workers, a tax on the auto industry, a deterrent to car sales in Ontario, a deterrent to economic recovery in Ontario. I believe it is the wrong signal at this particular time to consumers and industry alike.

The revised Bill 130, this NDP proposal, has changed from an environmentally based deterrent to a broad tax grab. That's what this is. The Treasurer, I'm sorry to say, refused to answer questions about how the latest extension of this tax to include 99% of all vehicles would deter people from purchasing fuel-inefficient cars. Do you know—well, I know you know, Mr Speaker, why he didn't answer those questions. He couldn't answer those questions because Bill 130 is not a deterrent not to purchase. That's a double negative. Bill 130 is not going to deter the purchase of fuel-inefficient cars. Bill 130 is going to deter the purchase of any car in Ontario. It's that simple.

I say for the members of the government caucus opposite, many of whom have auto parts industries in their ridings, many of whom have the spinoff industries of the auto sector which is such an important component of the Ontario economy, that this legislation, Bill 130, is not a deterrent to the purchase of energy-inefficient cars. This is not an environmental bill; this is a deterrent to the purchase of cars. It is an economic deterrent. It is a deterrent to the consumer, who we all wish at this time would help lead us out of this recession with renewed confidence. The purchase of automobiles made in Ontario would be very significant in assisting our economy through this difficult recession.

I mentioned Bob White before. Do you know what he had to say about Bill 130? He said this is a more uniform tax. He said it's much less damaging to the bottom line of the industry in terms of how it would skew the sales of certain models—not exactly a rousing endorsement; in fact, an acknowledgement from a union leader as to what this really is and also, I believe, a statement that points out how misguided the policy of the NDP government is and was in understanding the fundamental importance of the automobile industry to Ontario.

The Association of International Automobile Manufacturers had this to say: "As the tax stands now, it will damage the automobile industry at a time when it's just beginning to recover from the recession." Do you know who said that? Donald McArthur, Canadian president of the Association of International Automobile Manufacturers. "As the tax stands now, it"—this Bill 130—"will damage the automobile industry at a time when it's just beginning to recover from the recession."

Hello? Is anybody listening over there?

**Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview):** We don't want to listen to you.

**Mrs Caplan:** Mr Speaker, I appeal to you. This is a very important debate on Bill 130 and yet the member for Yorkview, who is not sitting in his seat, interjects, which I know is unparliamentary. I ask that you call him to order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** Order, please. The honourable member for Oriole has the floor. If indeed you wish to participate in this debate, the third reading on Bill 130, you will have the opportunity. In the meantime please allow the honourable member for Oriole the decency of listening.

**Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview):** On that point of order, Mr Speaker—not on a point of order but on the member for Oriole's point of order: She sat down. She appealed to you as a matter of process because she—

**The Acting Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Wiseman:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I think that was an unfair comment from the member for Oriole, because in fact we were listening to what she had to say. We always find it intriguing and interesting how she can manipulate—

**The Acting Speaker:** Order, please. That is a point of view; it's not a point of order.

**Mr Mammoliti:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The only thing missing here is the fact that she's not stomping her feet. Is this what she did when she was a child when her mother didn't listen to her or didn't give her the time of day?

**The Acting Speaker:** Order. This place is degenerating. We are participating in third reading of Bill 130, a budget bill, a very important bill. The honourable member for Oriole, please proceed.

**Mr Perruzza:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: According to the rules of this House, if you look through the rules, you will find that the member for Oriole was standing in her place participating in the debate. The member for Oriole then proceeded, without any interjections from

you whatsoever, to sit down and take her seat in this place after having levelled some accusations at the government members in this House. We were listening attentively.

**The Acting Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr Perruzza:** According to the standing rules of the House, Mr Speaker, and I refer this to you, the minute she gave up her place—

**The Acting Speaker:** Order. The honourable member for Oriole has the floor. Please proceed.

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I've been listening very patiently to the points of order by the government side and I think more of us should hear them. I don't think there's a quorum present to hear the points of order.

**The Acting Speaker:** Could the clerk check for a quorum?

**Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees (Ms Deborah Deller):** A quorum is not present, Speaker.

The Acting Speaker ordered the bells rung.  
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**Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees:** A quorum is present, Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker:** A quorum is now present. The honourable member for Oriole.

**Mrs Caplan:** I've been in this Legislature now since 1985. With the display of the member for Downsview and the member for Yorkview—

**Mr Perruzza:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I referred a point of order to you. The member for Oriole—and I refer you to the standing rules of this assembly—was participating in the debate. She sat down of her own accord without any interjection from you whatsoever. At that point, at that minute she gave up the floor of the House. I ask you to rule on that order.

**The Acting Speaker:** Thank you. The ruling from the Chair is the following: The honourable member for Oriole asked the Chair to try and bring order. The Chair did. I recognized some people on points of order. I did not ask for further debate. Therefore, the honourable member for Oriole still has the floor. Please proceed.

**Mrs Caplan:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I'm watching the behaviour of the members of the government caucus. I know why the people of this province are so disturbed and distressed and why the nickname of the Clampetts seems to apply so well.

**Mr Perruzza:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: We are not debating any matters of conduct with the opposition or with the government members; we are debating a very specific issue today. I think that member needs to speak to that particular issue and not to any other matter. I would ask you to interject if that happens.

**The Acting Speaker:** Thank you. I appreciate the advice. The honourable member for Oriole, please, and it is Bill 130.

**Mrs Caplan:** I appreciate your interjections to call order in this House and to draw the attention of members of the government caucus to what I believe is a very

important debate. We have a piece of legislation before us, Bill 130, which is sending out the wrong message to the consumers of this province. This is the tax on auto workers. This is a broad-based tax on cars, new-car purchases here in Ontario.

I would like to continue. I've already told you what union leadership has to say about this, and I've told you what the president of the Association of International Automobile Manufacturers has had to say. He said how it would damage the automobile industry at a time when it's just beginning to recover from the recession. Nick Hall of General Motors said that the company "continues to have serious reservations" about this tax, about Bill 130. We know what actions General Motors has taken since this bill was tabled in 1991 for first reading by the Minister of Revenue.

The point I want to make to the members of the government caucus who are here, the point I want to make to the members of cabinet who are here and the point I would like to make to those people who are drafting and crafting policy decisions which are sending out the wrong message to individuals and businesses and investors who will be making investment decisions today and have made investment decisions over the past few months since Bill 130 was first tabled is this: What you want is a message to them that says Ontario is a good place to invest, that Ontario will be recovering from this recession, and that their investment here will return profit to the company, which will create jobs for Ontarians, will help create wealth and will stimulate economic growth. You want a message that says the government of Ontario believes that's a good thing, that the government of Ontario wants capital invested in Ontario, wants business to say Ontario is a good place to do business and wants the consumers in Ontario to have incentives to purchase Ontario-made goods and Ontario-made services.

Those are the messages the NDP government should be sending out, but that's not the message Bill 130 sends out. Bill 130 does not send out a message that Ontario is a good place to invest. It's a concern because the message to the purchasers of new automobiles in Ontario as a result of Bill 130 is that they are going to have to pay more for that car than they would have without Bill 130. Bill 130, which has been disguised as a gas-guzzler, environmentally friendly tax, is nothing of the sort.

We've heard from those who would advise the government that Bill 130 is hurtful to the Ontario economy, is hurtful to the automotive industry. As I said, there is still time for this bill to be withdrawn. I could speak at length. I think there are a number of questions that could continue to be asked about this legislation. It's quite a technical piece of legislation. I appreciate the very fine briefing material from the Ministry of Revenue so that I could fully explain this tax to the people of the province during third reading.

Attached to the piece of legislation there's a table available that tells you exactly what each car is going to have to pay in addition because of this tax, and it is very extensive. I'm counting the pages, one, two, three, four, five, six pages, closely typed with the names of all the

different cars, many of which are manufactured here in the province of Ontario.

Chevrolet, Chrysler, Buick, Dodge, the Eagle, many Ford cars, just to name a few: These are not fancy luxury cars. The Ford Tempo, the Taurus, the Ford Probe, the Fiesta, the Mustang, the Escort: These are cars that average Ontarians drive. These cars could, if they were purchased today, replace old energy-inefficient, environmentally unsafe cars. The Hyundai, the Isuzu, the Honda—under the listing for Honda there's the Accord, the Civic, the Prelude—and it goes on, Nissan, Oldsmobile, Optima, Pontiac.

I'm just naming a few. I'm not going to name them all because I could be here till 6 o'clock just reading out this table and that's not my intention. What I'm attempting to point out is that this tax does not affect just the big luxury cars; this tax affects all the cars in Ontario, many of which are built here in Ontario. Many of those cars built here provide not only jobs for workers in the auto industry, but for people in the service industry and the auto parts industry.

To understand the implications of this kind of policy decision is something I believe we have an opportunity during Bill 130 to fully comprehend. I suggest to the members of the New Democratic Party who are here during this debate today that they read the excellent briefing material from the Ministry of Revenue, that they consider this policy put forward in the budget of a year ago, and that they realize there is an opportunity to lobby the Treasurer to change that policy. Hopefully the debate on 130 will continue for sufficient time that the members of the government caucus, who have been so vocal of late on other policy issues—

**Mr Tony Martin (Sault Ste Marie):** We have been at it for a year now.

**Mrs Caplan:** I see the member for Sault Ste Marie, who is not in his seat, Mr Speaker, but is interjecting, contrary to the rules of this House. He's been very vocal in his caucus on the issue of Sunday shopping. Mr Martin, member for Sault Ste Marie, you have an obligation and a responsibility to your constituents to point out why Bill 130 is not in their interests. Bill 130 will deter car sales. Bill 130 could be and is, in my opinion, damaging to the automotive industry which is recovering, just coming out of the recession.

We know that notwithstanding the policies of this NDP government this province will recover. But I want to leave you all with this message: You could bring forward policies which would see that when we recover, when the economic cycle comes around, Ontario's recovery is strong, solid and secure. You can do that through the policies of your government. You can determine whether the recovery will be strong or weak, slow and sluggish or secure.

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You have the power to influence consumer confidence. You have the power to influence business confidence. You have the power to influence investor confidence. That's what governing is about. You have that opportunity to see to it that our recovery from this recession is strong and secure, and I would suggest as I conclude my remarks that Bill 130 is not the kind of initiative which will assist in the

economic recovery. Bill 130 is not the kind of tax which will instil confidence in the consumers and encourage them to purchase new cars. Bill 130 is not the kind of legislation that will say to the automotive industry, "Ontario understands your problems and is trying to assist and to facilitate the purchase of new cars."

I will be voting against Bill 130 and I would ask the members of the government caucus who are here to see what they can do during this short debate to influence the Treasurer and the government to see if perhaps he would reconsider and withdraw Bill 130.

**The Acting Speaker:** Questions and/or comments?

**Mr Tilson:** I have listened to the comments made by the member for Oriole and I must say I found some of her comments interesting, particularly when it was the Liberal government's bright idea to think up this whole concept of the gas guzzler tax. Our party opposed it then and we continue to oppose it now. I will say, however, that certainly the current government, before us now, has gone further than even the Liberals dreamed of, and as the member for Oriole has well stated, it will indeed tax almost all, if not all, the automobiles on our roads today.

This tax, as the member for Oriole has stated, will have a major effect on our auto industry, which is one of the major cornerstones of our economy. We've had dealers telling us they're going bankrupt. We've had suppliers who are going bankrupt. We've had almost all the major automobile manufacturers around this province tell us how they're going to have major losses and have had major losses.

As a result of that, more people are out of work, more people are being put on unemployment, more people are going on welfare, more people are going to require job training, all of which will be the responsibility of the same taxpayer whom this government is trying to tax—and it's a tax. As someone on the opposite side, said, "It's a tax, it's a tax, it's a tax, no matter how you look at it."

It has nothing to do with the environment, which was originally the concept the Liberal government put forward, and I suppose it could be compared to its original tire tax, from which I don't believe one dime has gone into the environment, and not one dime of this tax is going into the environment. It's simply a tax grab to deal with the problems of a very desperate government in trying to fund the very expensive policies that it has put forward.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further questions or comments?

**Mr Perruzza:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity to respond very briefly to the member for Oriole. As I said the other day, it's very difficult to talk to any tax bill whatsoever, to any tax measure.

I think if you asked any member of the House, whether on the opposition benches or on the government benches, you'd find that on a personal level everyone would agree that taxes are a very difficult thing and the least amount of tax and the fewer the taxes you place on your constituents and ratepayers right across the province the better off everyone will be. But obviously you have to live within certain fiscal realities and sometimes you have to look at the tax side of the equation and do some things on the tax side so

that you can make this province and, quite frankly, this country a better place to live.

I'd like to pick up on a point she talked about when she talked about influencing consumer confidence. The opposition members probably have more influence on consumer confidence than any government has ever had or will ever have, either in this province or in this country, because every time they undermine what the government tries to do in its fiscal statements and through legislation, when you undermine those policies through untruths and scare tactics, that scares people, that scares off consumer confidence.

I would point out to the member that through our budget we didn't increase taxes to middle-income earners, to working people in the province. Substantial amounts of money were invested in job training to make our businesses more viable and we reduced business taxes. If that doesn't inspire confidence, then nothing will.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further questions and/or comments.

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** I want to congratulate our Revenue critic. I think she put forward some very thoughtful and constructive arguments against this particular tax on auto workers in the province. But I want to point out that when the members opposite, in responding to her comments, talk about confidence in the consumer sector, the section 3 notes in this bill give perhaps an inkling of hope that the government might, you would think when you read it, understand that the way to give incentive is to put money back in people's pockets.

It says, "This enactment implements the Treasurer's proposal to provide a tax credit of \$100 on the purchase of a new vehicle having a highway fuel consumption rating of less than 6.0 litres per 100 kilometres." The interesting thing about that is that is indeed an admission of the financial policies that we on this side of the House have been talking about; that is, the way to actually spur the economy is to give people a tax break, yet it doesn't go nearly far enough.

They're talking about buying a product that's going to cost \$10,000, \$15,000, \$20,000, \$25,000 or \$30,000, and they're talking about \$100 off the tax that they're adding on top. So here's the logic: They tax more with a gas guzzler tax and then claw back \$100 out of the entire tax bill on potentially a \$25,000 or \$30,000 expenditure. That's supposedly going to create confidence or give incentive to people to buy a new car.

You can understand why we have difficulty trying to find some positive things to say about your economic policies when it's clear that somebody in the Treasurer's office had an inkling but the Treasurer didn't understand it and clearly your government doesn't understand it. I think our member spoke very eloquently against this bill.

**The Acting Speaker:** Thank you. We can accommodate one final participant.

**Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln):** I'm an auto worker. I worked in St Catharines. I heard the comments from the member for Oriole. I'm very concerned. But I think the direction this government has taken is the point that if there's an alternative fuel of propane or natural gas, there

is no gas guzzler tax on that. Not only that, we wind up with a sales tax of up to \$800 back with an alternative fuel. I think these initiatives this government's taking are actually putting money back in the pockets of taxpayers and car purchasers here in Ontario.

Not only that, if people take a look at the price of propane and the price of natural gas, it's quite a savings. The thing is that this is a gas guzzler tax, so it'll make a direction that the car companies will start coming around to the point of producing vehicles that will be cheaper for the consumer to purchase, so this is a very important part of this gas guzzler tax.

**The Acting Speaker:** The honourable member for Oriole has two minutes in response.

**Mrs Caplan:** I'd like to quote Mr George Peapples, president of General Motors. This was March 1992, just this past March. He said, "Given the current economic conditions, it is difficult to understand why anyone would advocate higher taxes on the sale of new vehicles." He goes on to say that these proposals "will do little to promote fuel conservation or improve the environment."

My constituents in the riding of Oriole have real concerns about the provincial economy. They want jobs. Many of them depend on the automobile industry for their livelihood. Others, through the auto parts industry or jobs related to the automobile industry, serve my constituents in the riding of Oriole in a number of different ways. They drive cars. They purchase cars when they can afford to. When they are feeling secure and confident, my constituents are the kind of people who would help to restore the economic prosperity in this province, if they had the kind of incentive and the kind of policy coming from this government that would encourage them to do so.

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I think my constituents in the riding of Oriole realize, as Mr Peapples realizes, that this tax is misguided, that it will not do what the Treasurer has said it will do, that it will dampen the economy and the recovery from the recession. I would suggest to you, Mr Speaker, as the representative since 1985 of the people of the riding of Oriole, that this tax is the wrong tax on the wrong product at the wrong time by a government that simply doesn't understand the need to stimulate the economy and encourage the automotive industry in the province of Ontario.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate on Bill 130?

**Mr Tilson:** It's a pleasure to speak today on the final reading of Bill 130, which is the Retail Sales Tax Amendment Act of 1991. I'm certain we're all aware that this bill has come a long way since it was first discussed in the 1991 budget, which, at that time, called for the doubling of the current rates of tax on vehicles subject to the tax. In other words, it was a more restrictive type of tax to fewer vehicles. Second, it was the inclusion in the tax base of passenger vehicles with fuel consumption ratings of between 8.5 to 9.4 litres. They were subject to a tax of \$200, as well as \$700 on nine to 9.4 litres, as well as the sports utility vehicles.

These measures were to come into effect on July 1, 1991. There was considerable opposition from all areas of

the community: the automobile manufacturers, the auto workers' union, the car dealers and a few environmental groups. The government did change its position. On June 24, 1991, the minister announced that the gas guzzler tax was to be revamped, and it was. It was revamped to cover, as the member for Oriole has stated, almost all automobiles that are manufactured in this province. For purposes of those listening, I'm going to briefly summarize, so that we have an idea of what Bill 130 is going to do. Then I will comment on some of those provisions.

It essentially doubles the tax rate on most fuel-inefficient cars, those with fuel consumption ratings of 9.5 litres per 100 kilometres or worse. The tax on vehicles in this category will now range from \$1,200 to \$7,000. That is up from the previous rate of \$600 to \$3,500. As has been stated earlier in the debate, that's essentially doubling the tax rate.

There will be a creation of a new classification for new passenger vehicles with fuel economy ratings between six and 8.9 litres per 100 kilometres that will be subject to a \$75 tax. There will be the imposition of a tax of \$250 on new passenger cars with fuel economy ratings between nine and 9.4 litres per 100 kilometres.

As has been indicated, there will be the inclusion of sports utility vehicles, including leased vehicles, with fuel economy ratings of eight litres per 100 kilometres or worse in the tax base. These vehicles will be subject to a tax ranging from \$75 to \$3,200, depending on their fuel economy rating.

Finally, as one of the members of the official opposition indicated, there will be the creation of a tax rebate of \$100, repayable to purchasers of new passenger cars, including lessees, with fuel economy ratings of less than six litres per 100 kilometres, to be credited to a purchaser as a deduction from the tax. These measures have already come into effect. We are debating on measures that already came into effect last August.

The whole concept of this tax, at least as we've been led to believe by the government, was as a fuel conservation tax, and it's a tax on new vehicles. Almost all new vehicles that are being constructed in this province today are being constructed with the idea of conserving fuel. Nothing has been mentioned as to what the government is going to do with the older vehicles, the vehicles that are causing pollution and are burning more energy, more gas. No policies are being put forward with respect to those vehicles, so we're taxing the very vehicles that the automobile manufacturers intend to construct to solve many of our environmental problems.

In response to the government's changing its position from its 1991 budget to the ministerial statement in June 1991, there was an editorial in the Oshawa Times commenting on this, which stated:

"They couldn't get it right the first time, so they got it not quite so wrong the second time, and we're supposed to be happy about it. Ontario Treasurer Floyd Laughren took back a tax designed to encourage sales of Oshawa-built Buick Regals and Chevrolet Lumina and replaced it with a tax that will discourage sales of all domestically made cars and encourage sales of a few transplant models."

I think that's the whole issue. The automobile industry is, as I've indicated before, one of the major cornerstones

of our whole economy, and it concerns me when, every day, we read in the newspapers of people who are losing their jobs or people who have been warned that they're going to lose their jobs and that they should start retraining in other areas, all of which is at the expense of the very taxpayer that this tax is being put on. It does concern me the number of people who are being laid off, the number of dealerships that are closing. Why would you buy a new car? It has nothing to do with the environment; it's a question as to whether or not you can afford a car.

The North Bay Nugget, after the June ministerial statement, talked about the new tax and rebate scheme, and it said:

"The only signal it sends us is that the consumer will pay more for a new car. It's another tax, added with all the other taxes, and nothing more. At this rate, some day the taxes on a vehicle will be more than the cost of manufacturing."

Probably that statement goes a little far, but it does express the concern of many of us as to the cost of a motor vehicle. The motor vehicle, because of the size of this great province, has become a necessity. Whether you come from the north, the east or the west, almost all of us have to have a motor vehicle. Almost all of us require it, not only for pleasure but, more important, for making a living, for working. Almost all of us need the motor vehicle, and yet the cost of all new motor vehicles with this tax is going to be made higher to purchase. So it starts hitting all of us, not for environmental reasons but simply to raise the overall tax.

Further comment on the ministerial statement that has resulted in Bill 130 came from the St Catharines Standard in an editorial on June 26, and this is where the expression came from. I think the member for London South said, "A tax is a tax is a tax," and that's all it is. It has nothing to do with the environment; it's simply a way of raising money. The editorial said, "A tax is a tax is a tax," and what was a regressive tax on Ontario's troubled auto industry remains a regressive tax but is spread over a wider range of vehicles than was originally proposed, and the main victim is still our own industry.

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That's what we're looking at. Surely when you implement a tax such as this you look at the overall problems it's causing the auto industry. This tax hasn't caused all the problems of the auto industry, but it certainly has added to them. You have to look at all of these things. You have to look at why people aren't buying new cars. Why are they taking a longer period of time to buy new cars? Why are they making do with the old gas guzzlers? Why are they making their cars last longer? The reason is that they can't afford the new automobiles, and that, of course, is what this tax is designed to do: tax the new automobiles.

This government, as I have indicated, like the Liberal government before it, peddles this tax as an environmental issue. There is no provision in this bill about what it's going to do to the environmental programs with the proceeds of this tax. It's no better than the tire tax. Remember the tire tax? All of us seem to forget that. We do have a tire

tax and that has simply been the same type of tax as this: to raise money for a very financially troubled government.

This clearly has been an environmental issue. That's what the government has said as to why it put forward this bill. Why in the world would you tax the newer cars that are trying to deal with the environmental issue? They are trying to develop an automobile that will guzzle less fuel, to use the words of the Treasurer, and cause fewer environmental problems. Why are you taxing the very people who are trying to deal with this problem? Why are you making it more difficult?

When you realize the number of industries—the automobile industry, the dealerships, the people who service or supply all the parts. Many of us have at least one of those groups in our ridings, whether it's automobile dealers or companies that provide parts. Why are we taxing the very people trying to assist us on this? Why are we taking advantage of a situation, particularly when we know that the automobile is a necessity? It's no more than a hypocritical tax grab, and that's all it is.

I'm alarmed when I read—and I just pick at random a particular newspaper article that goes back to February of this year and talks about Ford Canada losing \$209 million and all the companies talking about the tremendous losses they've sustained. The member for Oriole says the automobile people are coming out of the recession. When I read in the paper about the number of jobs being lost, it troubles me.

This article came from the Globe and Mail and talks about how Ford Motor Co had a loss of \$209 million on sales of \$12.2 billion in 1991. Last year Ford sold 258,700 cars and trucks in Canada. That's 2,000 fewer than in 1990, so it's a troubled industry. Why are we taxing it? Why are we making it more difficult? We should be concerned about the jobs. We should be concerned about the businesses related to the automobile industry. Why are we making it more difficult for them when it has nothing to do with the environment? Exports to parent Ford Motor Co in the United States totalled 371,400 vehicles, and that was over 77,000 fewer than in 1990.

There's no question these figures go across the country, but my point is that we have a troubled automobile industry. When you put forward a tax you have to realize the effect it's going to have on the very industry having those problems.

Ford Canada's overseas business lost \$124 million last year compared with a loss of \$68 million in 1980. So for the last two years it's lost substantial amounts of money. It's getting worse. In the fourth quarter of 1991, Ford Canada's total loss was \$80 million on sales of \$3 billion compared with a loss of \$62 million on sales of \$3.2 billion a year earlier. That's just one of the manufacturers that is concerned about where it's going in the years ahead and the employees it's going to employ in all the related industries.

The main concern that seems to be coming forward, aside from raising tax on a tax on a tax, is that the tax for conservation applies only to new vehicles—that seems to be the main concern we have—most of which burn gas more efficiently than the older ones. Existing vehicles continue

to remain on the road and the heavy polluters are ignored. Some conservation policy. It's a tax grab. That's all it is, in short.

If I can have one piece of evidence from this government, in this bill or any related regulation, as to how it's going to deal with conservation issues, as it's allegedly saying it is, now is the time to say it—before we vote. Don't call it a gas guzzler tax. It's not a gas guzzler tax; it's a tax on new vehicles. It's adding to the problems the automobile industry has in this province.

It's been estimated that if you buy a new car in Ontario, taxes on a new family sedan car—and this is all of the taxes—could go as high as 18%. That's all of the taxes, but that has just added to the problem of buying a new car. Auto retailers tell us the tax load is costing them business. Several of them have told me they've got to make a second sale just to cover the taxes. Obviously, sales in the dealerships have been sliding for years. There's no question that's been because of the recession and other related matters. I suppose the members over here will talk about the GST. There's no question those are part of the problem.

Why add to a very serious problem? Instead of buying new cars that use less fuel, all this tax is going to do—

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I think the information offered by the member for Dufferin-Peel is very important and we should have a quorum.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville):** I would ask the table officer to please see if there is a quorum in the House.

**Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees:** A quorum is not present, Speaker.

The Acting Speaker ordered the bells rung.

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**Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees:** A quorum is present, Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker:** The honourable member for Dufferin-Peel now has the floor.

**Mr Tilson:** I want to emphasize that this tax has been billed as an environmental issue, and it's not. I think the government is misleading the people of this province when it says it's a tax that's going to assist the environment. It's a tax that is focused on new vehicles and that's all it is. There's no incentive in this bill to operate cars more effectively or to junk older ones. There have been no proposals put forward by the government. If they're really concerned with environmental issues and the excessive use of fuel, this isn't the way to do it, by simply destroying or adding to the destruction of a very important part of our economy, the automobile industry.

Reduced levies of \$75 and up—and that seems to be the lowest; it goes up to, I believe, as high as \$7,000—according to the level of gas consumption, as the previous speaker has indicated, apply to more makes of cars than even the Liberal government had contemplated. Members over here sat in this House and criticized the government on the previous gas guzzler tax, and their bill is even worse than what the previous Liberal government had put for-

ward; it covers all cars. As I said, I don't think even the Liberals would have contemplated this type of legislation.

The ironic part of all this, with all the downsides of the loss of jobs and the cost it's going to put to this government for job training and the people who are going to be put on unemployment insurance, do you know how much it's going to raise? It's estimated it's only going to raise \$45 million in tax revenue. That's all this tax is going to do, and yet when you look at the devastation it's going to do to the automobile industry, or adding to the problems of the automobile industry, is it worth it?

I support the member for Oriole when she says, "I think of all the tax bills you have put forward, this is the one that makes the least amount of sense, and if there's ever a bill that should be withdrawn, this is one."

There has certainly been much written on this bill since it was first introduced. I just want to comment on some of the remarks that were made, because it certainly hits all but 12, as I understand it, of the more than 340 models of cars and trucks sold in Ontario, so essentially that's almost all the vehicles in this province. The tax ranges are from \$75 to \$7,000. As I've indicated, if you buy a passenger car that uses less than six litres of gasoline per 100 kilometres while driving on a highway, that's 47 miles to the gallon, you can get a \$100 tax rebate. Big deal. These will include the Ford Escorts, the Honda Civics, the Lada Samaras, the Nissan Sentras, the Pontiac Fireflies and the Chevrolet Sprints.

A passenger car that uses 18 litres of gasoline or more will have a \$7,000 tax. That's notwithstanding the fact that the design of those cars, as far as gas guzzling is concerned, is far better than many of the older cars. The only automobiles listed in the 1991 guide that will come close are the two models of Rolls Royce at 17 litres and three models of the Bentley that get the same mileage. They'll fall, ironically, to a tax category of \$4,400.

The sports utility vehicles that use less than eight litres don't have any tax. Those are the Chevrolet pickups and a couple of others. If they use more than 18 litres, they could have as much as \$3,200 tax. The tax is based, as I understand it from the bill, on the Fuel Consumption Guide published each year by the Department of Transport.

I think some consideration has to be given to areas of this province where the motor vehicle is a necessity. In the north these gas guzzlers, as the government calls them, are a necessity. If you want to buy a motor vehicle that can handle unpaved roads such as those in my riding, the miles and miles of roads in my riding that aren't paved, that are dirt roads—that's in the south. On the miles and miles of roads in the north that aren't paved you need to have these so-called gas guzzler vehicles the government refers to, to operate in those areas. You're going to have to drive these vehicles on unpaved roads, snow-covered highways and lots of hills. My riding is full of these hills where you need strong, powerful vehicles that can go up these hills.

Many of us who live in the outskirts and drive into the city to work need the larger vehicles to carry all the kids, dogs and probably a few extra relatives. We're economizing on one car, unless we're all going to have a whole bunch of cars, which more and more of us can't afford any

more simply because of the cost of the motor vehicles. All these people are going to have to pay the tax.

According to the Fuel Consumption Guide put out by Transport Canada, the fuel consumption of a vehicle varies depending on when and how you drive, the optional equipment installed and the condition of the car. I quote, "Tests have shown conclusively that different drivers using the same vehicle over the same road and weather conditions experience up to 20% variation in fuel consumption." I'm quoting from the Fuel Consumption Guide put out by Transport Canada. I don't think that fact was considered when this bill was drafted.

The Fuel Consumption Guide goes on to talk about how rough asphalt, potholes and gravel-surfaced roads can increase fuel consumption up to 35%. Driving in snow increases fuel consumption because snow increases wheel slippage and resistance to vehicle motion. Wet roads can cause up to a 10% increase in fuel consumption due to increased rolling. Driving into a 30-kilometre-an-hour headwind has almost the same effect as increasing speed by the same amount.

What does that have to do with the environmental issues? Many of these types of vehicles are needed. They're a necessity. I'll be looking forward to hearing members, particularly from the north and the rural areas, who need these vehicles. They need these vehicles. Not all the people of this province operate motor vehicles on paved roads where there are areas of no or little snow. The weather conditions are a factor and certainly cause increases in fuel consumption.

Can we question the fairness of the tax? Taking all these matters into consideration, can we question the fairness of the tax to all the people of the province that's going to tax all but 12 of the 340 models of cars and trucks in Ontario? It's going to tax everybody the same. Some people, particularly in the cities, don't need those gas guzzlers in the same way the people in the north and the rural areas of this province need them. But I don't think the drafters of the bill ever considered that. Older cars, especially those in a state of disrepair, pose an even greater threat to the environment and yet this bill is doing nothing to solve that.

1700

I've indicated how many of the dealers are losing money and going out of business. People aren't buying cars the same. How is this government going to encourage people to buy new cars and get rid of the old cars? How is it going to do that? Well, one thing it did was to put forward Bill 130, which is going to simply raise the taxes.

I'm quoting from a Globe and Mail article of December 1991, so the facts I am about to give you may have increased since then, but "General Motors says that about 15% of its dealers are losing money" and that a couple of well-known Toronto area dealerships have already folded. They've listed Grant Brown Cadillac Pontiac Buick Ltd last year—that would be 1990—and York Mills Pontiac Buick Ltd in December 1991.

Those are big dealers. Now it's not because of this tax; that's not the sole reason. I don't think anyone is saying that, but it's adding to it. It's adding to the cost of buying a new motor vehicle. People are sitting back, asking, "Can I

afford that size of vehicle?" You understand what it costs to buy a motor vehicle. The cost of buying a motor vehicle is unbelievable compared to what it was a number of years ago and considering what you're paying for taxes on those same vehicles.

The Globe and Mail article continues by talking about how Canada's chartered banks, with heavy commitments to the automobile industry, from manufacturing through to consumer finance and all the other related industries, are watching this business closely and are less willing to negotiate their dealer credit lines than in the past. That's what the dealers are telling us and that's what the banks are telling us. I have a dealership in my own riding that an individual in my riding told me was simply going to fold. This was about a month ago. I haven't heard, but I believe he's folded now simply because of the recession, all of the other taxes, and this is one of them. This is one of them because this has been in the works, I believe, since August of last year.

It's a particularly bad time to put forward a bill such as this when we realize the problems for the North American auto industry. No matter how you look at it, it's a bad time to put forward this type of bill. The member for Oriole has indicated that the auto industry may be starting to climb back. Maybe, although as I say, every day in the papers we read where dealerships are closing and the industry is laying people off. Maybe they are, but I say they are still in serious trouble, and it's because of this and many of the other related taxes.

The North American automobile industry has, as have many industries in this province, suffered its worst time ever in its operation. An article in the Oshawa Times in June of last year said that combined North America-wide losses for General Motors, Ford and Chrysler were \$3.2 billion for January, February and March alone. Now this is last year. They came back to back with \$2.1 billion in losses for the previous three months. The automobile industry is still in deep trouble, so why are we putting forward this tax?

Cleaning up the environment is a very admirable position for this government to take, and we're all environmentalists. We're all concerned about that funny hole up in the air, the ozone layer. We're all concerned about where we're going to put our waste. I've spoken against the environmental bill of this government, but I believe it is concerned. I believe this government is concerned about the environmental issues of this province. I think all three parties and everyone in this House is concerned with environmental issues, and there's no question that they should be a priority for this government or any other government. But rushing into a new tax that slams most cars, almost all of the cars that are churned off the assembly lines in this province, is indeed hasty and indeed not thought out. It's not the solution.

I think we should all keep in mind the number of people who are being laid off, the thousands of workers in Oshawa alone who put forward a petition last year protesting this original tax plan. The workers in the industries don't want it, certainly the consumer doesn't want it, I don't want and I don't think you want it, Mr Speaker.

To conclude, I think if we look at the current budget that's just been introduced by the Treasurer of this House and we look at the effects of the last budget, this jurisdiction is now the highest jurisdiction of taxes in Ontario. When tax rates go over 50%, we're in deep trouble. Ontario tax freedom day is now—I don't know the precise date, but I believe it's some time in mid-July. Six—

**Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South):** It goes into August if you include the deficit.

**Mr Tilson:** The member has just indicated that it goes into August if you include the deficit. That's seven months that you have to pay to the government before you put money in your own pocket. It's not just this government; I understand that. But when is the taxing going to stop? The average American pays taxes only until May 5.

This budget—you have to look at all the taxes and the deficits and everything else this government has put forward since it came to power—makes us, the people in this province, the highest-taxed people in North America. What are we getting for it? Are we getting value for our money?

People wouldn't mind paying a tax that's being put forward if they were confident that this tax was going to go to the environment, but there's been no evidence and no indication put forward by the government that proceeds from this tax are going to go to the environment. It's called a gas guzzler tax, but that's all. That's the only relation to the environment. It suggests that it's going to solve an environmental problem, and all it's doing is adding to the coffers of the high-spending policies of this government.

The member for Oriole has stood up, quite rightfully. I've agreed with many of her comments, but I have to remind her of her tire tax, because they're very similar. The tire tax was designed to get rid of old tires. It was designed to create a fund to fund research to get rid of old tires. The former Treasurer of the Liberal government said he was sick of driving by an unsightly dump in Hagersville, which is near his riding, and the rest, of course, is history.

You get very suspicious when a government stands and says, "We're going to solve an environmental problem. We're going to call it a tax," a gas guzzler tax or a tire tax, but the money doesn't go to solving those problems. It doesn't go to solving those environmental problems. It's no different from the tire tax which you, the government, challenged when you were on this side. Remember that when you're voting on this bill, because certainly not much, if any, of the tire tax went into research for tire recycling.

1710

As I understand it—I'm quoting from an article from the Toronto Star in June of last year—"The Environment ministry spent about \$5.3 million on tire research, but the tire tax pulled in \$40 million." I hope the member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings will comment as to where the proceeds of this bill are going to go.

**Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings):** General revenue fund.

**Mr Tilson:** Of course you're saying that, and that's the fraud of it all, because you stand in this House and say

it's a gas guzzler tax. It has nothing to do with that. It's going into general revenue, exactly as you say. That's the hypocrisy of it. This government is trying to say that it's concerned about the environment of this province, but all it's doing is taking the proceeds from this tax and putting them into the general revenue fund. That's all they're doing.

**Mr Mammoliti:** You change the tone of your voice.

**Mr Tilson:** I'm sorry, but I'm very upset. I don't like hypocrisy.

The real story is that this is a new tax on virtually all automobiles. This is on top of the provincial sales tax. It's on top of the federal goods and services tax. It's another tax. It's designed to encourage fuel efficiency, but all it is is just another way for government to tax us, in this case cars, cars that all of us feel are a necessity to our way of life.

**The Acting Speaker:** Questions and/or comments?

**Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale):** I listened very attentively to the member for Dufferin-Peel, who made a very good presentation. I only wish that the NDP government would have listened with more attentiveness so it could have learned something.

When the Fair Tax Commission proposed doubling the tax over three years, from 1993 to 1995, and adding vans and light-duty trucks to the list in 1994 and adding the gas guzzler tax, I don't think it understood that the centrepiece of economic recovery in this province is resting on the automobile industry.

I know that on the back benches of this NDP government there is a tax revolt brewing, because I read your lips, and your lips have been telling us for many weeks now that after you pass this bill you're going to say, "Read our lips: 'No more tax.'" I only hope that those of you who are saying, "Read my lips: 'No more tax,'" will then become the majority of this government, because we can no longer afford to add taxes upon taxes upon taxes, simply because you know that people from your own constituencies are calling you every day and saying, "How can we possibly have an economic recovery if we're having tax upon tax upon tax?" People in Ontario are sick and tired of taxes.

If the environment is the real issue, then I propose to you that there are more imaginative ways to handle this. Let there be a reporting system or let there be a system that would add levies to the registration fees. There are other ways to do it. I only say today that I would support those backbenchers when they say, "Read my lips: 'No more tax.'"

**The Acting Speaker:** Questions and/or comments?

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** I just want to comment briefly on the speech made by my colleague the member for Dufferin-Peel. The very enlightening remarks he made should be listened to by many people. The gas guzzler tax is something that we have had the opportunity to analyse now for some period of time. Every indication is that, as the member has indicated, the funds are going into general revenue. There's nothing specific about the funds being used on what the intent is: the environment. We have fought for many years to try to have a special

fund that would go entirely to the Environment ministry in order to help reduce the pollution we have.

The new fuel, ethanol, is something a lot of members in this House should be talking about, because that new fuel is grown here in Ontario through the corn that's growing in the crops. It would make work for farmers and we would have a lot cleaner air and then you wouldn't need the gas guzzler tax. As we have the gas guzzler tax, why isn't that money being funnelled in to produce ethanol fuel province-wide?

I know there's an initiative taking place with regard to the ethanol being sold in a few co-op service stations, but that's not enough. We need far more effort, time and money from this gas guzzler tax to go directly into that very aspect of producing crops and the ethanol, which would help to make the air we all breathe a lot clearer.

**The Acting Speaker:** Questions and/or comments? The honourable member for Downsview.

**Mr Perruzza:** Once again I'd like to speak to the issue of taxes and reiterate some of the comments I made earlier. I'm not going to ask members to read my lips. I'm going to say it in plain English, and if they can't hear me all they need to do is put on their hearing-aids and it'll come across loud and clear.

I don't think any member of this House and of this government, quite frankly, supports our going back to our taxpayers and increasing taxes. I'm certainly not that kind of individual. I agree with the member for Parkdale when he says people can't bear taxes any more. I'd like to point out to him, and to my Conservative friend who spoke at quite some length on this bill as well, that if he reads through our budget document he will find we've decreased taxes for businesses and we've given middle-income earners of Ontario a finally recognized tax break after they received some 32 or 33 tax increases from a Liberal administration that was in office only a short five years.

They went through budget documents with magnifying glasses and highlighted the print and wedged themselves in wherever they could. I would remind them that if they look through our document on the budget they will find reductions for businesses, job training moneys to make businesses more viable and a break for middle-income earners.

**The Acting Speaker:** Question and/or comments? The honourable member for Oriole.

**Mrs Caplan:** I want to remind the member opposite that this is called Bill 130, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act. It is a tax on tax. It has nothing to do with gas guzzling. As I listen to members of this Legislature, and particularly my colleague from the third party whose remarks I am responding to, I hope my colleague will not be upset by the misinformation that has just been put forward by the member for Downsview, who clearly not only does not understand this piece of legislation but is totally unaware of the tax policies contained in the budget. He proved it with his comments a moment ago.

I'm hopeful that the next speaker in this debate will be the member for St Catharines, Mr Bradley, who has shown great leadership in explaining the misguided policy of Bill

130 and offered very constructive alternatives. I believe my constituents in the riding of Oriole are well served by critics in the opposition who not only properly criticize inappropriate government policy but also offer constructive alternatives and suggestions to the government so that it can consider them in the formation of new policies or change its misguided, even though perhaps well-intended, policies.

Third, I also believe that members on this side of the House can make an important contribution in influencing future policies by engaging in important debate.

At this time I just want to acknowledge that we've heard a number of speakers in this House today and over the past little while. I sense there hasn't been a willingness of the government to listen, and I hope that from now on it'll pay closer attention to the important contribution members of the opposition are making to this debate.

1720

**The Acting Speaker:** The honourable member for Dufferin-Peel has two minutes to respond.

**Mr Tilson:** I think we all remember when this government was elected and when it was campaigning. This government was going to be a different government. It was going to be different from the Liberal government; it was going to be different from the Conservative government. It has been. That's an understatement. That's the sad part of it. It has been a different government, but not in the way we thought.

Is the whole environmental issue being dealt with the way this government had promised it would when it was running for office and making its statements and opposing the Liberal government? What's their answer? This is their answer. An environmental tax they call it, which is not going to solve or deal with the environmental issues.

I hope I'm not being unparliamentary, but this is a deceptive bill. It's most deceptive. It's alleged that this is going to deal with environmental problems, but it is deceptive. It is simply not going to deal with those issues.

The Treasurer looked around for ways of taxing the people of this province and they've decided to tax everybody who owns an automobile. What's next? Food? What is next? What are the necessities of life? How far are you going to go? We're the most taxed people in North America. We're overtaxed. We're overserviced. We've had enough.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate?

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to participate in this third reading debate on Bill 130, which is a tax I refer to as the tax on auto workers in Ontario, because I believe that will truly be the net effect of this tax, and I might say the tax on steelworkers in Ontario, on miners, on people who produce plastic in Ontario, all the components that go into a vehicle, because this tax is simply discouraging people from purchasing vehicles. Of course, that's an essential thing to happen in our province if we're to have the economy stimulated once again.

The member for Lincoln is in the House today and he has worked for General Motors in St Catharines for a number

of years and recognizes the importance of the automotive industry to Ontario, not simply to our community where it's exceedingly important but to the entire province.

Many estimates have come out, but I think it's safe to say that one in four jobs is either directly or somehow indirectly related to the health of the automobile industry in Ontario. That refers of course to the production of automobiles and the assembly of those automobiles, the kind of activity for instance that takes place at Oshawa, and the production of parts for those automobiles, the kind of activity that takes place in St Catharines.

At a time when we're in the depths of the deepest recession this province and indeed this country have experienced since the Great Depression of the 1930s, at a time when we're facing unprecedented international competition from offshore, now from Mexico, from the United States, from all over, I am extremely concerned that we in Ontario would decide to increase a tax and extend a tax on motor vehicles sold in Ontario.

The original tax when it was brought in by the previous government essentially hit very, very expensive cars, the overwhelming majority of which were imports. That was carefully assessed before that tax was brought in. It was also brought in at a time when the economy was booming and it probably had virtually no effect on the purchase of vehicles in Ontario.

What we have now are different circumstances. Talk to the people who work in the plant in St Catharines, whether it's in the foundry which is scheduled to close—though all of us will be working to see that General Motors makes a different decision. We hope they change their mind and we see the foundry reopened or at least maintained in the city of St Catharines. But the announcement has been made that some 2,300 jobs will be disappearing permanently from the city of St Catharines through the closing of the foundry and the termination of one of the lines in terms of the engine plant.

In addition to that, on March 1 of this year, 750 people were scheduled to be laid off in St Catharines. They were labelled as indefinite layoffs. Everybody would prefer, given the choice of a layoff, to have a definite layoff. That means there's a specific time to come back. That means there's hope at the end of the horizon.

I think Gord Wilson put it best in a visit to St Catharines a few months ago when he came in and explained the circumstances facing us in this recession. Gord Wilson, the president of the Ontario Federation of Labour, pointed out that whereas in the last recession, the 1982 recession, perhaps 28% of those jobs where there were layoffs would not return ever again, in this recession we get close to 50% of those jobs not returning. That certainly could be the case in St Catharines.

The member for St Catharines-Brock, the member for Lincoln, the member for Niagara Falls, the member for Welland-Thorold and I attended a rally—I mentioned the member for St Catharines-Brock already; she'll be happy to know that—last Friday at General Motors, where over 1,000 people were there. Bob White, the national president of the Canadian Auto Workers union, and Gord Wilson, the president of the Ontario Federation of Labour, were

among the speakers who were on the platform to indicate great concern about the potential of the closing of the foundry and part of the engine plant, and of course were involved in the Fight Back campaign, which I believe has a good deal of support in our community.

One of the factors is—and we always have to consider this—if you look at all the factors a company can look at when it's going to make its decision about its future investments, you always hope that whatever level of government it is, it is making a positive contribution to that decision-making process. The federal government has signed a free trade agreement that at least two of the three parties in this House have been opposed to. Premier Peterson was adamantly opposed to the free trade agreement and said so on many occasions. Premier Rae has said the same thing.

Unfortunately for both, though I'm sure they would both like to have had the opportunity to thwart it, Premier Rae—in fact he said he would do everything possible to thwart that and not implement it—has found as he has become Premier of the province that's not possible. I'm sure that as he uses this terminology, in his heart of hearts he would like to have that opportunity, but he doesn't. There are only certain things a provincial government can do. It can speak against it and it can lobby against a national program of this kind, but it cannot prevent it from coming into effect.

So we have the free trade agreement, which I think has been detrimental to the province of Ontario. Premier Peterson once said that we would be presiding over the deindustrialization of the province of Ontario if the specific free trade agreement that was brought forward by the government of Brian Mulroney were in fact implemented. We've seen much evidence of that right around the province, and certainly we in the Niagara Peninsula have experienced that.

The 1965 agreement, signed when Prime Minister Pearson and President Johnson signed the free trade pact at that time, had a lot of safeguards for us, and people have worked hard to maintain those safeguards over the years because they have preserved jobs in Canada. Even when there have been some job losses, we have not felt the impact we would have were that not in effect.

But the free trade agreement superseded that. Yes, there are people who said it didn't have much effect, that it was still something separate, but we all know that it did have an effect on that. The federal jurisdiction could be helpful in terms of renegotiating that pact, if that is possible at this time. I'm sure the Americans would not be eager to do so, but perhaps our government could prevail upon the government of the United States. I urge them to do so.

We've had other federal government policies which have had a detrimental effect, a dampening effect on the economy. Members of the New Democratic Party recite almost on cue the high interest rate policy—in the past now but it was there—and the high dollar, which has a major effect. Anybody who doesn't think the price of the dollar has an effect should examine our industries where we've been successful in exporting to see that a good deal of that success is attributable to the dollar as it relates to the American dollar. I have used the example in this House

of speaking to an individual who's the vice-president of a pulp and paper industry in Thunder Bay, who told me that one cent on the dollar costs \$17 million for that company. Of course, we can see the same effect on the automotive industry, where we enjoyed somewhat of an advantage because of the competitive dollar.

1730

But there are areas where the provincial government has jurisdiction. One of them is this specific tax. I understand two things. I understand, first of all, that the Treasurer of this province wants revenue. Revenues aren't coming in easily in Ontario. Every Treasurer, regardless of who that personality happens to be, wants to have money—in opposition you refer to it as a tax grab; in government you refer to it as essential funds to operate the programs you have—but I can understand that the Treasurer of this province wants money to operate his programs and why he would want to see this bill read for the third time: so he can be collecting those revenues, as he has been, and can continue to do so legally.

Second, I understand that there are some people who believe that this is an environmental measure. I've had the opportunity to serve for five years, three months and four days as the Minister of the Environment of Ontario. I always believed that the most dramatic change you could make in air quality and fuel efficiency in this province, which was a very practical step, was to encourage people, those "people" being potential purchasers of vehicles, to get rid of their old clunkers and buy new cars.

If I were parochial in St Catharines, I'd recommend they buy cars that have components that were made in St Catharines; I would be happy, however, to see an all-of-Ontario stimulation in that automotive industry. It cannot come about as long as governments, of whatever political stripe, are putting taxes specifically on that industry.

I hope there are a number of measures undertaken to assist the automotive industry. I hope we look carefully at the price of electricity in Ontario to see that the social costs of certain projects are not placed on the price of electricity. I happen to agree with some of the things that have been done in terms of bailouts for different communities. Some people don't; they're philosophically opposed to that.

I happen to think that a lot of good things are happening, for instance, in Kapuskasing as a result of the fact that governments have assisted those people. The private sector and governments and the unions and people working together have brought Kapuskasing back. I am in favour of that. If the government were to say, "We're taking expenditures out of our tax dollars to do it," I would say that is a judgement that you are making and one that I personally happen to agree with. I do not agree with placing that on the Hydro bill, because there are predictions out there that we will have no foundries, no forge shops, no electroplating left in Ontario if we lose our competitive advantage in terms of hydro rates in the province.

You can't keep those rates down artificially. I understand that and I'm not asking that. The former Minister of Energy is here. She made a valiant effort when she was the Minister of Energy to bring about conservation programs. I support the kind of conservation programs that she was

talking about. The leader of the Liberal Party now, Lyn McLeod, had initiated some of those programs. The new minister is working on those. I am happy to see that happening because I think, in the long run, industries such as General Motors and others will benefit if they put in machinery which uses less energy. Therefore, their energy costs will be down.

This bill is just one component. I'd like to see it in conjunction with withdrawing this particular bill and not proceeding with third reading. I would also like to see the government at the same time, because I think they could work hand in hand, remove the provincial sales tax for a period of time, six months, nine months or a year. I'm not saying for ever, because again I understand that to have the excellent social programs and health care programs we have in this province, for instance, we need revenues; no question about that. Anybody who tries to pretend otherwise is trying to fool the people of this province. I understand that. That's why I say removing the provincial sales tax for a period, perhaps the rest of the year, for instance, in conjunction with not proceeding with this tax, would really stimulate the purchase of new automobiles in the province.

The advantages of the new automobiles are, first of all, that they have much better pollution control equipment than the old automobiles have. I'm sure when I traded in my 1984 Oldsmobile for my 1990 Chevrolet that the 1990 Chevrolet gets better—I call it "mileage"; I'm still living in the old school. I can't say "kilometrage" or something like that, but I'm sure it gets much better fuel efficiency than my older vehicle. If I were to trade one in today, I suppose it would even be more efficient in terms of fuel.

The second thing besides fuel efficiency is that those emission controls are far better. They're superior each year. They're not superior by some whim or fancy of those who manufacture the vehicles. It's because governments, in North America particularly, have been stringent with their emission control rules and regulations—not stringent enough to suit me, but stringent—that this has come about. California, to its credit, has led the way and has really shamed many of us in this part of North America. It's really a federal government jurisdiction but as a provincial government—I can recall at interprovincial meetings—we pressured the federal government into having better pollution control equipment. So I think those two things work well.

This tax would in fact be punitive to the automobile industry. The automobile industry means more than jobs in St Catharines, it means jobs right across the province of Ontario. In Victoria-Haliburton there may be some smaller industries that supply, in one way or another, the automotive industry. For instance, when the foundry is announced as closing, just think of things such as gloves—people must wear gloves within a foundry—or other protective equipment they might wear within a foundry. The people who supply those no longer have the opportunity to supply to those people.

When I see it disappearing, if it does, I see—as the Minister of Labour walks in. He's from Hamilton and he's been a long-time supporter of jobs in his area in the steel

industry and has worked hard with his constituents to ensure those jobs are preserved.

Some of the automobiles produced and components of those automobiles are made of steel. That steel comes from Sault Ste Marie in some cases, from Hamilton, Nanticoke or other smaller operations in the province of Ontario. So when the automobile industry goes down or is in its depths, when new taxes are put on that discourage people from purchasing new vehicles, then it affects directly, I would say, the industry known as the steel industry.

The Treasurer is from Sudbury. I was born in the city of Sudbury. I well remember when I was there the importance of the mining operations and the processing of ore in those areas; how important it was for nickel, copper and many of the other substances found in the ore pulled out of the ground in those areas; how important it was in terms of jobs in that area when we had a strong automobile industry.

When I lived in Sudbury, I have seen the figures go from 21,000 people working at Inco when I was there to—I think the Treasurer was telling me last night—something like 6,500 hourly rated people working for International Nickel, or Inco, as it's better known now. That's because of many factors, but I know that some of that ore, some of the materials processed, refined and smelted there end up in motor vehicles. When we have motor vehicle sales stimulated in the province of Ontario, it's good for Sudbury, Levack, Chelmsford and Frood and all the areas in and around Sudbury.

In addition to that there are plastics produced in the province of Ontario. The member for Sarnia would know that he has an important petrochemical industry in his part of the province and people in eastern Ontario know about the petrochemical industry there.

There are plastics made that are used in cars. In fact, there are more plastics used today than ever before, because we have decided we want cars to be lighter so they don't consume as much fuel. Those industries are going to be adversely affected when there's a downturn, as there is at the present time in the sales of vehicles.

The auto companies have lost a lot of money. In Canada, General Motors, interestingly enough, made money last year. I think \$325 million—the member for Lincoln, he's very familiar with this—they made last year in Canada, but in North America they lost a lot of money. All the Big Three and some of the other companies have lost money and that has resulted in scaling back.

Mr Robert Stempel, who is the American president—he governs us as well—of General Motors, indicated there would be some 74,000 jobs lost as they scale down their industry. I just hate the terminology they use, by the way, when they talk about downsizing and things like that because it really amounts to people losing their jobs and there's all kinds of buzzwords they use. It really means we're taking jobs away from people. They're good-paying jobs because they're not easy jobs.

It's an industry which has been successful and allows people to be paid well and it annoys me as it must annoy you, from time to time, when you hear people in the community who will say, "Well, it's good for them if this hap-

pens," because somehow they've been resentful of people making more money than they were making.

In my community, the closing of the foundry in St Catharines and that portion of the engine plant and the other job losses would be about \$130 million in terms of a payroll in a year. That's a lot to a community. That's people who are making purchases of things made in St Catharines, services in St Catharines and services provided and items made in other parts of Ontario.

That's why I think it's important for governments at any level to do everything they can to encourage the sale of automobiles in this province. I always hope we will work and strive for—I urge the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Energy and others to work with the federal government to keep the pressure on the federal government to ensure that we have vehicles which are as pollution-free as possible and have the fuel efficiency we're all looking for.

1740

The member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry and somewhere else—Hastings as well; he has several areas—has been a proponent, to his credit. When I was Minister of the Environment he used to ask me questions about ethanol.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food has talked about the possibility of more use of ethanol in Ontario and in Canada for vehicles. That's going to be of some assistance.

I know there are people out there and some of them would be disappointed were I to advocate the production of motor vehicles, but I'm living on planet Earth. The Treasurer said to someone on this side the other day, "Get real," or something like that, that we're living in a real world. I think everybody recognizes that we're living in a real world. It's tough now to be in government. I recognize that. I don't concede that often because I remember the days when we were often criticized from the other side, but it's tough out there.

That's why I think it's important to have the private sector moving, the automobile industry moving. Governments have to look at every way possible. Perhaps they have to forget past ideology in some cases. That's hard to do because then others will say—I read an article the other day by Rob Martin in the London Free Press of April 29. I won't quote it today, but he was very critical of the New Democratic Party for abandoning its principles, and he may have some valid points.

But I recognize as well that there are times when governments have to govern. They have to take the situation they've got—they can't manufacture a new situation—and they have to take certain measures that may not be very popular. But I know the people of Manitouwadge would want to see more vehicles produced in this province, because some of the materials that go into those vehicles may have come out of mines in the riding of Lake Nipigon.

The Minister of Transportation, who provides the wonderful roads in Ontario and who has recently announced for the seventh time that the Ministry of Transportation will move to St Catharines—I was delighted to welcome him there, as I always am, as I said the other day, as a long-time good friend of mine and a good friend of transportation.

He would recognize the importance of not proceeding with Bill 130, which is going to discourage people from purchasing automobiles in Ontario.

General Motors provided this to some of us. I think members of the House will find this interesting because it really gets down to how you advertise foreign-made cars, although some people from CAW point out, appropriately, that often you don't know what a foreign-made car is now. You may buy a General Motors product that's produced in Korea. There may be another product—I think Honda Accord has a lot of Canadian content, for instance. But here's an advertisement that appeared in the St Catharines Standard not long after the announcement of the closing of the foundry.

It's put out by St Catharines Volkswagen, and it says: "True or false." You can check one of the three boxes. The first box says, "If I buy a Volkswagen diesel Elvis will pop by for lunch"; the second, "If I buy a Volkswagen diesel the sun will rise in the west"; or third, "If I buy a Volkswagen diesel the government will give me money." You can imagine at the CAW halls, locals 199 and 676, people reading this and saying, "My government is contributing to the purchase of foreign vehicles." In the advertisement that I hold up for members of the opposition to see, it says: "If you picked number three as true, you're right. Because if you pick a Volkswagen Golf diesel, Jetta diesel or Jetta turbo diesel, the Ontario government will give you a \$100 credit. So see us for a test drive today. And on the off chance the King does pop by, won't you say 'hi' for us?" And it says, "Credit will be applied to 8% provincial sales tax at time of transaction. See your dealer for details."

Here we have a provincial tax placed on vehicles which is in fact encouraging the purchase of foreign vehicles.

**Mr Mammoliti:** The King is still alive.

**Mr Bradley:** The member for Yorkview says the King is still alive. I should tell you, Mr Speaker, that in late September 1990, if one looked above at the sky in Boston, where I'm told there were people at that time watching the Blue Jays in the final throes, there was a sign that said, "Yorkview NDP supports the Blue Jays," or something of that nature. I couldn't figure out how they were holding it up. Then someone said the member for Yorkview was there speaking at the stadium at the time. Actually, it was an airplane pulling it. I thought it was a rather unique thing to be doing. I know the member for Yorkview would not have been able to get there in an older vehicle. He obviously purchased a newer vehicle before this tax was placed on, and as a result was able to go down to Boston to cheer on the Blue Jays.

**Mr Mammoliti:** The King drove me.

**Mr Bradley:** The King drove him, he says.

There are other factors to consider. I saw an article in the newspaper that was rather interesting. Once again, it's the St Catharines Standard of February 6, 1992, so this was before that fateful announcement on February 24. It said:

"Old Cars Causing Pollution: Survey."

"More motorists have hung on to old cars in the recession and are damaging the environment as a result, says the Canadian Automobile Association.

"'When you have an eight-year- or 10-year-old car in the street, it's cranking out a lot more pollution than a brand-new car,' association president Michael McNeil said Wednesday.

"The association's annual survey of more than 40,000 Canadian drivers shows that the average odometer reading of vehicles rose this year to 85,000 kilometres from 73,000 kilometres five years ago.

"That's an indication that the vehicles in the country have aged as people put off buying new cars and trucks, said McNeil.

"The average odometer reading of vehicles has not been as high since the mid-1980s, following the last recession...

"Respondents said they expect their average annual driving distance..." to diminish, however, as a result of the recession again.

The survey results said two things which I would like to point out. They said many things, but only two things I want to point out to the House.

First: "Price was cited as the most important factor for people who were deciding which vehicle to buy, followed by reliability, handling and performance and fuel consumption. Reliability used to consistently be rated the most important factor and fuel consumption has never been as important before." The fact is that price is the most important factor when people are making that decision to purchase a new car.

Second: "People intend to buy more used cars than ever. Used car sales are expected to make up about 31% of car purchases this year compared with 27% last year." What that means is that people are keeping older, less fuel-efficient, more pollution-causing vehicles on the road. They're being discouraged from purchasing new cars because of the price.

Part of the contribution to that—not the entire contribution—is this tax which this government wishes to have read for the third time in the House today.

General Motors of Canada provided this, perhaps to all members of the Legislature but certainly to those of us who represent areas where automaking is an important industry. Here is a short quote that I think is quite helpful for members in making up their minds. It says:

"As the plant manager of the General Motors of Canada Ltd St Catharines components plant I would like to express my concerns regarding the proposed tax for fuel conservation, or gas guzzler tax. Simply stated, I strongly believe that this tax will have a serious impact on new vehicle sales and consequently employment, and will not be offset by any benefits in fuel conservation or environmental improvements. I will not belabour the point regarding the potential negative impact on our vehicle sales, but I have attached an outline of GM's concerns regarding the proposed tax. You are more than aware that the last thing the province of Ontario needs is the additional loss of manufacturing jobs, and I believe that this gas guzzler tax will result in lower manufacturing employment.

"I concur strongly with the GM of Canada recommendation that a more appropriate fuel conservation program would be through increases"—that governments could bring about, for instance—"in vehicle licensing fees, registration fees," and so on. That was their contention. "A tax based on vehicle age would allow you to better achieve the environmental goals."

I guess what is most important about this is that anything the government can do to encourage me or anybody else to trade my vehicle in—even though my vehicle isn't all that old at the present time; it's quite fuel-efficient and it's still in very good shape—and purchase new vehicles instead of older vehicles and actually turn in the old clunkers rather than keeping them in the yard is going to be beneficial to the environment.

The government of Ontario has not proceeded yet with its air pollution program. I can recall announcing in the summer of 1990 the clean air program for the province. Since that time, for whatever reason, there has been no action taken by the government. Perhaps it's the economy, perhaps it's a lack of funding that the Treasurer provides for the Minister of the Environment. Whatever it is—I'm not here to harp on that one today—the government has not proceeded with that program for clean air in the province.

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But it can be helpful by encouraging people to buy new vehicles. That's one thing that can be done that doesn't impose anything on industry. It doesn't cause any problems for the environment that I can see. The products that are used nowadays are more environmentally benign than those products which were used in the past.

I can understand General Motors' concern when it saw the potential for yet another tax. Fortunately, and I like to be fair in this House, the government did not proceed with a tax which was recommended by the NDP tax commission. One of its groups recommended there be even more of an extension and more of an increase in this tax. But suffice it to say that the present enlargement, I guess is the best word, of this tax by the Treasurer of this province in his last budget, not this budget, and that's what we're talking about, has had a detrimental effect and continues to have a detrimental effect.

I'd like to share with members of the House some other material that may be helpful in encouraging them to join me in not wanting this bill to proceed to third reading. I would suspect, for instance, that anybody in this House who represents an area which is reliant directly or indirectly on the automobile industry would not want to see this bill go to third reading.

[Applause]

**Mr Bradley:** There is applause from at least one member who represents that area.

**Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold):** Applauds.

**Mr Bradley:** Dr Kormos says at this time—I say that in a nice way, not in a derogatory way, because we're supposed to say "the member for Welland-Thorold"—he agrees; he knows, he's been a strong fighter for people in this area. This will appear in his literature, by the way, in his next election when I say he's been a strong fighter for

his people despite the fact that his government has been wrong on so many occasions. I had to put that in, so he'll have to parse that out.

I want to share with members of the House some information which has come from General Motors of Canada. I know this is of concern not simply to those who are in the management end of things, but to the auto workers themselves. That's why I call this a tax on auto workers, because I think ultimately the people who are penalized most by this are auto workers, though as I said earlier I could call it a tax on steelworkers or a tax on miners or something of that nature because those are the implications of this tax.

This particular letter is similar to the other one but a bit different. It says:

"Dear Mr Bradley:

"General Motors of Canada Ltd (GMCL) is extremely concerned that the Ontario government may increase the gas guzzler tax on the sale of new cars and sport utility vehicles and place a new tax on vans and light-duty trucks. In our view, Ontario's 'Tax For Fuel Conservation' negatively impacts the automotive industry in Ontario, while doing little to promote fuel conservation or to improve the environment."

You will recall whenever I have asked the Treasurer the question in the House, he says: "Well, this is a red-letter day. Here's the former Minister of the Environment advocating we not proceed with an environmental measure."

I do not consider this an environmental measure; I consider it a tax measure. If the Treasurer said to the province and to the people of this House, "I want third reading of this tax because I believe it is important it be implemented because I can get more money from it," I'd at least say, "I understand where you're coming from." But to portray this as an environmental tax on the part of the government is quite bogus.

Let me go on to tell you what Maureen Kempston Darkes has to say about this tax:

"Under the proposals which are being considered for inclusion in the upcoming provincial budget, consumers purchasing most GM products would have to pay a tax of between \$150 and \$2,300 on a new car by 1994, up to \$800 on a mini-van and as much as \$1,600 on a new light-duty truck, sport utility vehicle or van. Other manufacturers' products would be impacted in a similar manner."

This is something I would hope would go to the provincial council of the NDP because I have actually been to the provincial council, at least close to it. I was in the city of Sudbury when it was held. There was a fine dinner, the 20th-anniversary dinner for the Honourable Floyd Laughren, the member for Nickel Belt. I attended and extolled the virtues of the Treasurer as a personal friend and a person who had contributed so much to his constituents. When I spoke, I certainly mentioned the name of the representative from Welland-Thorold on many occasions at that time. The Premier's face did change as I mentioned the name from time to time.

There was a provincial council that weekend. I was hoping I would be invited by the Minister of Industry,

Trade and Technology to attend that provincial council, because I think that if I had been able to make a presentation—

**Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology):** How come you haven't said anything nice about me, Jim? I always talk kindly about you.

**Mr Bradley:** That's why I'm saying such nice things about the minister. I'm sure that if I were able to make a presentation to the provincial council of the NDP—a lot of those people understand the province well in terms of the grass roots—it would agree with me that this tax should not proceed in terms of third reading.

There was a former member for Sudbury, Bud Germa. You may be familiar with him, Mr Speaker. He had a certain terminology he used for people in his party whom he felt didn't know what working people were all about, what it was like on the plant floor and what it was like to work in industry. He called them "intellectual" something.

**Mr Peter Kormos:** "Intellectual" what, Jim?

**Mr Bradley:** The rules of this House do not permit it, but I encourage people in this province, particularly in the New Democratic Party, who are interested in this to check the terminology the member for Sudbury used to use.

The reason I mention him is that he was an oldtime New Democrat, an oldtime CCFer in fact, who used to know what working people wanted, who used to know what the implications of tax measures were on working people in this province. Some days I wish he were still here, though this is not a negative reflection on the present member for Sudbury, who used to live down the street from me, one block away, when I lived in the city of Sudbury.

Ms Maureen Kempston Darkes goes on to say—I think this is important if we're to make the decision whether we proceed to third reading—the following:

"The tax content on new vehicles is already at extremely high levels. For example, on the sale of a Chevrolet Lumina built in our GM Autoplex facility in Oshawa"—

not far from Victoria-Haliburton—"total federal and provincial taxes equal \$3,150 or 16.7% of the \$18,890 sales price. Our dealers have indicated that the level of tax has become a significant impediment to completing a sales transaction. The problem is made worse by the fact that many consumers finance their new vehicle purchases and the increase in overall cost resulting from the gas guzzler tax makes financing more difficult to obtain."

That's something some of us may not take into consideration. She goes on to say:

"We are particularly concerned about the impact of these taxes on small businesses. Small business—a sector which is critical to creating jobs in our economy today—is already heavily burdened by tax and regulation. An additional \$1,600 tax on the vans or trucks which many small businesses need to operate could be prohibitive.

"Moreover, we are also concerned that gas guzzler taxes negatively impact sales of North American vehicles because consumers still perceive Asian products as being more fuel-efficient. While this is not factual, consumer perceptions are difficult to change.

"GMCL believes that if the government is serious about addressing environmental concerns, it should completely remove the TFFC in favour of higher registration fees," and she goes on to suggest what other measures might be taken.

The Minister of Transportation may not be in agreement with that, and probably I wouldn't be in agreement with that, but I would certainly say that not proceeding with this tax would be important.

I notice that it is, as we say in this House, 6 of the clock. It being so, I believe that I adjourn—no, I don't. I believe I will discontinue for now and continue tomorrow.

**The Acting Chair:** It being now 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned at 1800.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
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No. 23

Nº 23

ISSN 1180-2987

# Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

# Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

## Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Thursday 14 May 1992

## Journal des débats (Hansard)

Jeudi 14 mai 1992



Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday 14 May 1992

The House met at 1004.

Prayers.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

#### COMPOSTING

Mr Wilson (Kingston and The Islands) moved resolution 9:

That, in the opinion of this House, the Ministry of the Environment should adopt a policy of composting at the place the organic waste is generated—homes, schools etc—as the most effective way of reaching our province's target of diverting 50% of solid waste from landfill sites by the year 2000. The policy should emphasize the need for composting to take place at source wherever possible, for two reasons:

1. It is more cost-effective as there is no need to transport the organic materials and as there would be less need to build central composting facilities throughout the province.

2. It also eliminates the ongoing contamination problem central composting facilities must deal with as non-compostables become mixed with compostables.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville):** Mr Wilson moves private member's resolution 9. Pursuant to standing order 94(c)(i), the honourable member has 10 minutes for his presentation.

**Mr Gary Wilson (Kingston and The Islands):** Before I begin, I'd like to welcome the young people here to the chamber. It's a pleasure to see them because the subject we're dealing with, waste diversion or how we handle our waste, is one of the most serious legacies we leave our children. I want to welcome too some of the not-so-young people, like my colleague the member for Durham East, who I know will be very interested in what we're doing. It's a subject, as you'll hear from my remarks, we all have to deal with.

**Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East):** Don't blame us, Gary.

**Mr Gary Wilson:** We're not apportioning blame here, Mr Mills. However, as I mentioned in my resolution, the need to reduce the amount of garbage going to landfills is one of our most pressing concerns. The Ministry of the Environment has set diversion targets of 25% by 1995 and 50% by the year 2000.

The term NIMBY has been coined to highlight the way we've been dealing with waste removal to this point. NIMBY of course means "not in my backyard." It means in somebody else's backyard. The problem is that once we do that, then we as individuals lose sight of the garbage we're creating and what is being done to deal with it. Certainly it is not helping us deal with the kinds of resources we have to save if we're going to have the kind of society we're trying to build.

One of my answers is IMBY. Just drop the "N" and you end up with "in my backyard" or at-source composting. I hope the debate on my resolution will show the need for programs to promote composting as near as possible to where the organic waste is created. I think it's clear the more backyard composting is done the more it will reduce the need for central facilities. In fact, we'll need smaller central facilities, which will reduce the problems they create.

However, let's first be clear on what we're talking about. Composting deals with organic wastes, which are food wastes from households, commercial establishments and institutions, yard wastes such as leaves and grass clippings and wood waste products. The Ministry of the Environment defines composting as the biological decomposition of organic waste materials to produce a stable humus or soil-like product. We have to remember that food is fundamentally soil and that it's one of the most complete recycling processes available to us. Once the food is dealt with, it can be decomposed and put back into the soil in a very productive and safe manner.

Composting isn't new. In fact, it's an ancient practice that many of us are familiar with through gardening. Either we've done it ourselves or members of our family have done it. That's how I was introduced to it, in that my father was a dedicated composter up in northern Ontario, which puts to rest the myth that this can't be done in cold weather. On an individual basis it's a very feasible manner of dealing with all kinds of organic waste. I think the important part there, though, is the example that is set at the home. In one of my proposals I'll be suggesting that schools also should look to composting at site, at the location of the school wherever possible, because again that generates the interest and, I would say, enthusiasm for composting.

A consultant's study in the Kingston area showed organic materials make up 40% of the waste stream. That finding is similar to the rest of the province. That's a considerable amount when we remember that Ontario's landfill sites receive over 10 million tonnes of solid waste annually. With numbers like these, the inclination is to look at central facilities to deal with processing such large amounts of organic wastes. However, I think it's crucial to remember that composting is essentially a low-tech activity and can be done in the backyard. If we put our emphasis there, we'll reduce the need for the larger facilities.

Some of the problems with the central facilities are simply that a place has to be found to put them and the larger they are, the more difficult it will be simply to find the space. But also there can be problems with things like rodents, because of the meat products, and odour. The importance is to keep the central facilities as small as possible; again that need will be met with more backyard composting.

1010

There are more sophisticated models of this low-tech methodology, and they come very expensive. Not only do they have to be built but they also have to be maintained, and that costs a lot of money. Less sophisticated models are labour-intensive and that means there are training costs associated and you have to make sure you have the staff available to run them.

Canadian winters do slow decomposition, because it does require heat, or it works better in hot circumstances. So that will slow the effectiveness of the central facilities.

When there are contaminants in the organic waste, if you're not careful what goes into the organic waste, things like table scraps and food remains, then you'll end up with compost that can't be used in any but very restricted circumstances. For instance, poor sorting can mean there'll be plastic or glass in the compost that's left and that will cut down its use, first of all lowering the nutritional value of its return to the soil but also as a threat to grazing animals, which can of course cut themselves.

When high energy consumption is considered in the case of the sophisticated facility, the cost of processing waste has been calculated at over \$100 a tonne, and that's after it's been collected. You can see it's not a cheap process. By comparison, a study in Durham region estimates the operating cost of the backyard composter to be \$23.18. This calculation is based on free distribution and delivery of the composter, administrative costs and the cost of the study itself. I have a quote here from Ken Donnelly, waste reduction manager for the region of Durham:

"The cost of backyard composting is so attractive that municipalities should definitely be looking at giving composters to everyone in their jurisdictions. Costs can be recovered in a short time."

In my own area, the Kingston Environmental Action Project presented a cost-benefit analysis to the Kingston Area Recycling Corp. Based on giving every single household a composting unit, the analysis shows that the program would pay for itself in one year. As you can see, it's a very cost-effective way of approaching this severe problem.

The study also found that the estimated costs of collecting organic waste for landfill or for the central facility was \$65, with the added cost for tipping fee, and of course in some areas, like my own, that is a very high amount at \$150 a tonne. Then again there is the operation of the plant, which in the more sophisticated models is \$100.

But the benefits are not just in waste diversion. By composting, you have an opportunity to add nutrition to homegrown vegetables. For example, the average Canadian family throws away every year as much iron as you'd find in 500 eggs, as much protein as there is in 65 steaks and vitamins equal to the contents of 95 glasses of orange juice. That's just in the potato peelings that family threw out.

Compost provides three main nutrients needed for plant growth: nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Unlike commercial fertilizers, they're returned to the soil in a gradual manner that prevents burning and is a much more moderate and beneficial way of providing this nutrition.

I think most people understand how the backyard composter would work. Maybe when we get into larger units

like schools and apartment buildings it's not quite so clear, but still that can be done. As I mentioned, in schools it's a very good way of encouraging our children to take this method seriously. For apartments, especially smaller units, several bins can be set up to take the waste and it could be returned to the apartment dwellers themselves for use in potting plants or else distributed in the immediate neighbourhood for gardens and for mulch.

It can be seen that this method would bring neighbourhoods together. Certainly in the apartment buildings where this kind of interaction occurred, it would bring the people from neighbouring houses together with the people in the apartments, but it also, even in neighbourhoods that are composed of houses, brings people together where they are composting as a group. Of course they would share their experiences and maybe their compost.

I think the most important aspect of this is that it puts the onus for waste control on the people who are creating it, and that is us as individuals. No longer can we afford to simply ship this out of sight where there's no indication of what happens to it. It will force us to take responsibility for the waste we create. I think, more positively, it encourages in us the idea of stewardship: that we are responsible for our natural resources and what we do with them. Certainly the most fundamental resource we have is the food we eat, and the importance of agriculture as a system and how composting fits in with the renewal of agriculture where we're losing billions of tonnes of topsoil. This is a way of returning that topsoil to guarantee that we will have a future.

I am pleased to introduce this debate on this important resolution and I look forward to what my colleagues have to say. I will sum up after that's over.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate?

**Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North):** I'm wondering if I could have the concurrence of my colleagues, all-party agreement, to allow the member for Simcoe East to take my place in the rotation, inasmuch as he has a conflicting schedule problem.

**The Acting Speaker:** Agreed? Agreed.

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** I want to thank my colleague the member for Brampton North for giving me the opportunity to proceed. I have a meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources at 10:30. I expect that'll be very important; I don't want to miss it.

I welcome this opportunity to say a few words in support of this resolution put forward by my colleague the member for Kingston and The Islands. In simple terms, this resolution calls on the Ministry of the Environment to adopt a policy of composting at the place where the organic waste is generated, such as schools and homes. That is the most efficient way of reaching the province's target of diverting 50% of solid waste from landfill sites by the year 2000.

This policy should emphasize the need for composting at source because it is more cost-effective as there is no need to transport organic materials and less need to build central composting facilities throughout the province. As well, it would eliminate the ongoing contamination prob-

central composting facilities must deal with when non-compostables are mixed with compostables.

This resolution highlights the fact that the environment and its protection and preservation continues to be one of the most discussed issues of our time. To an individual composting may seem very minimal, but if enough of us compost our leaves and kitchen scraps, it will make a world of difference.

My wife and I have a composter in our home in Orillia. By composting, we feel that we really do have a role to play in the preservation and protection of the environment for our children and our grandchildren.

While I support the principle of this resolution, I'm disappointed that it does not address the issue of excess packaging on the many products we buy each and every day. The provincial government should bring forward some form of responsible packaging act that would prohibit the use of materials that are environmentally irresponsible when alternatives exist. It should also be extended to serve industries such as fast-food outlets and dry-cleaners, where there clearly exists an immediate need for improvement.

This packaging reduction program could include a hotline for consumers to report bad examples of excessive packaging to bring the public and the government's attention to it. The goal of a program like this would be to mobilize consumers, industry and environmental experts to reach a target of 20% reduction in waste packaging by 1993 and 50% by the year 2000.

I believe Canadian municipalities could save as much as \$50 million per year in collection and disposal fees with a 20% reduction in packaging waste, and I believe the price of the products we buy could also be reduced as a result of less packaging. This should have been part of this resolution. I'm disappointed in that aspect of it because I remember during the election campaign in 1990 there was a lot of discussion around the extra packaging we have.

1020

Each year the world population increases and the amount of topsoil needed for food production decreases. Because the scale of these problems seems much larger than any of us or our communities, some people must realize they have only one option and that is to raise their hands in despair, but there's a role for each of us to play in correcting the problems. If we play our part right, we will ensure that our actions lead to a good quality of life for future generations.

Everything is related: recycling aluminum cans, reusing plastic bags from the produce section of the supermarket, substituting household chemical solvents with baking soda and composting our wet garbage. People must be educated that a consumer does not buy overly packaged goods. If you need a bolt or washer and you can only find it in packages or a half-dozen wrapped in plastic, point out to the store manager that you require only one and it does not need to be overly packaged. Point out that the item is made of metal and a plastic wrap will not keep it fresh or preserve its life.

I had the opportunity to buy a flashlight in one of the hardware stores not long ago. This flashlight had a string

attached to it to hang it up with. For the life of me I couldn't believe why this was packaged and wrapped in the largest measure of waste I've ever seen. That light could have been hung on the wall with that string just as simply as being packaged and hung up by the package. That, to me, is what we should be aiming at here and I would love to have seen that as part of this resolution: to reduce packaging.

I know what our composter at home is all about and I know how much we've used. I know that packaging would reduce our landfill sites by far more than what composting is going to do.

So as I said earlier, I support the principle of this composting resolution from the member for Kingston and The Islands. It would not require the unnecessary expenditure of taxpayers' money and it would get everyone involved in preserving and protecting our environment. As I said, I hope in the future we will see a resolution in this House and I hope the Minister of the Environment will bring forward a resolution, as a government minister, to reduce packaging in this province, because I believe that is a major issue facing us today.

I want to thank you once again for the opportunity to speak at this time and I will be supporting the member's resolution.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate?

**Mr Wayne Lessard (Windsor-Walkerville):** At the outset, I just want to indicate that I'm going to be speaking in support of this resolution as well. I wanted to make a few comments about the submissions that have been made by the member for Simcoe East.

He says he's disappointed there isn't more in this resolution about packaging and reducing waste. I want to remind him about Bill 143. Although that bill had a lot to do with the waste management problem in the greater Toronto area, it did have the regulation-making authority for the minister to reduce packaging and it also requires businesses to conduct waste audits. So I know that's going to address the issues he's raised.

I live in Essex county and, like most parts of Ontario, that's an area that's in the midst of a waste disposal crisis. The main landfill we currently use is located in the riding of my colleague the member for Essex-Kent, Pat Hayes, and it's scheduled to close at the end of this year. In fact, one of the alternatives to take the place of that closed landfill is also in the riding of the member for Essex-Kent. So this is a problem he is very seriously concerned about.

As a result of facing that landfill closing, it's been imperative that we've had to become very serious and pursue an active policy of reducing the amount of waste we produce, and also recycling and reusing. The Essex-Windsor waste management committee has been at the forefront of the pursuit of this goal. They've done things like ban the disposal of cardboard, wooden pallets and also automobile tires in the landfill site. They've also in the last two years sponsored a tremendously successful program of selling backyard composters. They've sold over 12,000 since they began that program and have a goal of 25,000 to be sold. That would cover approximately 25% of the households in

the county. They've been encouraging the use of their composters through educational campaigns, demonstration projects at malls and attending at schools and things like that.

The most important part of this program is the price they're selling the composters at. They have names like the Barclay Soilsaver, the Earth Machine and one product that's produced locally called the Resource Saver. These are devices that would usually be sold retail for about \$75 to \$100 but, because of the Essex waste management committee's efforts and also through the support of the Ministry of the Environment, which I am very proud of, those devices are able to be sold for under \$25. The result has been that over 400 truckloads of residential waste has been diverted from landfill.

I want to add that my wife Nancy and I have two composters in our yard. Last week my wife was telling me that she was cleaning out the composter—of course, you know I'm not home often enough to help her as often as I would in doing these sorts of chores—and how impressed she was at the quality of the material that came from the composter and how good it looked when she spread it around in the garden. So I know that if the Essex-Windsor waste management committee ever decided to start collecting organic wastes and take it to some other facility, it is never likely to get my organic waste as a result of what I've seen as a positive step from composting. I'm sure this is going to be similar for other people who have been converted to composting in their own yard and have been impressed by those results.

That concerns me about the prospect of having centralized composting facilities. This is the approach that, in fact, the Essex waste management committee is taking. They've discussed this on several occasions and it is their position that they really need to set up one central site to see how it works out before they even consider having smaller sites spread out in various areas of the city and the county. That is going to be enormously costly to establish. There are construction costs, collection costs and the trucks and drivers that would have to be provided. This would be part of a change in waste disposal and collection. It would involve actually having to pick up three streams of waste. There would also be the objections of people who may be located near this proposed facility.

This is one of the reasons I am attracted to the resolution that's been presented by my friend. He specifically mentions schools. Those have large areas of land around them and I know that in my travels through schools in the city there are quite a number of children who are very concerned about the environment. I think this is an area that we could really follow their leadership in. This would be an obvious place for reduction through composting and I want to commend my friend for bringing this resolution to the House and encouraging people to use their backyard composter. I know I am going to continue to do that.

1030

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate? The honourable member for Brampton North.

**Mr McClelland:** Let me start by beginning where my friend and colleague from Windsor-Walkerville concluded:

by paying tribute, if I can, to the young people of this province, this country and, in many respects, the world, who in many ways are driving the environmental initiatives.

My friend the member for Scarborough North has recently been visiting a few schools, particularly through the course of Education Week last week, as I'm sure many of my colleagues were. He noted that in virtually every school he visited, indeed perhaps every classroom in some of the schools, there were initiatives being undertaken by students who were doing such things as composting programs right in their schools, from the worm composting programs, which are very interesting, to the traditional composting programs we use as well, and putting it back into their own yards.

I was at a school last week—I'll mention it and pay tribute to the young men and women at Williams Parkway Senior Public School in Brampton—and they took great delight in showing me some of the projects they were doing in Education Week, not only in the science fair they had, but tying that in specifically with their environmental initiatives.

They happen to have an interesting group which calls itself the CAPE Crusaders. I think, Mr Speaker, you will give me the indulgence that normally we would use for private members' statements to pay tribute to the CAPE Crusaders. They came up with that little acronym. It's for Citizens Against Pollution Everywhere—the CAPE Crusaders from Williams Parkway Senior Public School. They began with their idea simply by doing a composting project in their classrooms. It was delightful to watch them and see the enthusiasm they brought to that task. I say, as my friend the member for Windsor-Walkerville said, that I think we can learn very much from the young people, who are very sensitive, and rightly so, in terms of the world we are leaving them, and are challenging us to fulfil our responsibility in terms of the legacy and the stewardship of the world God has given us.

To the member for Kingston and The Islands, I congratulate you, sir, for bringing this forth. It is an opportunity for discussion and yet again promoting the concept that each one of us can do our share and do what we can in a local way that will ultimately have an impact in global terms.

It's been often said—in fact, the member for Peterborough said this last week in a resolution brought in this House by one of our colleagues—that what we do environmentally not only impacts us here, but has implications for men and women literally around the world. I think that happens for a variety of reasons. I think it becomes a process that feeds itself, if you will. When somebody does it, it challenges a neighbour and a neighbour does it. As you indicated, Mr Wilson, it brings people together. It's a positive opportunity, and we all know how much we need that in our communities and our neighbourhoods today. What better way of doing it than working on projects? It not only brings people together, but has a positive result that contributes today and for the future both in terms of waste management and the attitudes that are prevalent in our society.

Other people mentioned, and the member for Simcoe East touched on the issue, that you begin to develop a mindset, so that as people begin to take an initiative in one area, it spills over into other areas. Composting is relatively simple. In our paper that's published three times a week in my community of Brampton, I saw an advertisement that was taken out by the Ministry of the Environment. It had a stopwatch and it said, "In 58 seconds, you too can begin composting."

A very effective ad, and it says it doesn't take very much to begin it. It sets out the very basic steps of doing it. You need not have a composter per se. You can do it just in the open field or in your backyard. I think it's those kinds of things. This particular ad went on to say that you can spend from zero to "?" dollars in doing this. So it can be done for literally no money, making a very positive contribution. Or you can have, as our friend the member for Windsor-Walkerville has indicated he has, a couple of composters in your backyard. I think that's again indicative of the beginning of setting mindsets and attitudes that will drive initiatives in a variety of areas, packaging being but one of them.

I think that as we begin to do that, we begin to look at the things we do, the kinds of services we employ in our lifestyle, the kinds of products we use and the kinds of things we demand. But in our reasoning, I think, we often mix up our desires and our needs. I think we've lost sight from time to time in our society. We say we need things, and I think that as we begin to do things like composting in our homes, it challenges us to be a little bit more sensitive in a variety of areas in our lives in terms of our stewardship for the world we have.

I have said this in committee, my friend the member for Windsor-Walkerville being present: I'm challenged from time to time by a little five-year-old man, a young fellow. My son is five years old and he catches me doing things that I shouldn't be doing. Again, that comes back to what Mr Wilson is saying and the general philosophy that underlines his resolution today, that it's the beginning of changing a mindset and changing an attitude. Old habits die hard. If I can say this, at the risk of sounding self-serving—I hope I don't sound that way—I think I'm relatively sensitive in terms of environmental issues. Yet I get caught by a five-year-old doing things that aren't necessarily the best or the appropriate things to do. I used this example perhaps in committee. Forgive me if I'm repeating it to some of the people who might've heard it.

I recall not too long ago I was rushing out to some event and taking my son. I was quickly making sandwiches for him; I think they were tuna salad sandwiches. I had the can and I went to throw it into the garbage, a sort of instinctive reaction. I was rushing, I wasn't really thinking. My son picked up on it right away in the inimitable fashion of five-year-olds and said: "Daddy, you shouldn't do that. That's supposed to go in the blue box." In a sense, he chastised me, if you will, not in a condescending way but just the way that children do, by example.

I think that one little story is indicative of what you, Mr Wilson, are saying, that if we'd begin to do it we'd begin

to alter our mindsets. It's an example for the kids. It becomes a lifestyle that's adopted by them.

One of the great ironies as well is that many of us—I hope nobody will take offence at the fact that I'm going to include us all in more or less the same generation although there are people here who have come from different backgrounds and different lifestyles whether they be rural or different parts of the world—most of us in this House are of a particular generation that got caught up in the lifestyle of the 1970s: that was really the throwaway, the convenience society. We got caught up in that. We bought into it, literally and figuratively. We're paying the price for that in many ways right now.

In some senses, by going forward we're going back. When you think back, in terms of my family, to my mom and dad as young people through the era of the Depression, they learned to maximize everything they had. They didn't have the conveniences we had. In some respects they were more, if you will, environmentally sensitive and environmentally advanced perhaps by necessity. Now we have an opportunity to do it by choice and by leadership. I think the member for Kingston and The Islands is bringing that kind of leadership to this place today.

I want to talk very briefly about how we can help people. I mentioned that the Ministry of the Environment was running an ad that I saw in my local paper yesterday indicating that you need not spend any money to have a composter. But some people would desire to have it for a variety of reasons. It might be aesthetic reasons or just for a matter of convenience. And there may be certain properties that don't lend themselves to having just an on-the-ground composting system. We've implemented a program that the member for Windsor-Walkerville alluded to where the Ministry of the Environment subsidizes the purchases of composters, backyard composters for residents in the province of Ontario.

In terms of the logistics of how that happens, I would urge those of us who work here and those of us who have dealings with the Ministry of the Environment to look for a system, as it becomes more accepted at municipal and regional governments, that is more consumer-friendly, people-friendly, if you will. I can only indicate without getting into a whole lot of detail that the Peel regional council had considerable difficulty in terms of implementing that program this year. I don't think it's appropriate, because it's old news. In fact, at the end of the day I think the matter was resolved to most people's satisfaction.

If we're going to do these kinds of things we should look at ways that would make it easier for people to access the product. I'm not putting blame on anybody in particular; I will simply say that the regime that was set up to implement the program created almost as many problems as it solved, to the point where many people kind of threw up their hands and said, "Let's not even bother with it" at the local level, not bother with the program because it's causing too much difficulty.

1040

I would ask the member for Kingston and The Islands, who is obviously showing leadership in his caucus in this regard, together with his other colleagues who are genuinely

very, very much concerned, to look at the implementation of the program that would help residents get their backyard composting. I'd be happy to share with him some of the details that cause problems, particularly in Peel.

Simply said, if I could sum it up in this way, I think we should leave it open for consumers to make choices—and the retailers, if we are in fact going to work through the retail sector. It doesn't have to be in competition. It can be done in harmony with them. It doesn't have to be done at their expense. We can find a system, perhaps a variety of systems that are not seen to be in competition with the local store, whether it be our—am I allowed to use names of various operators, Mr Speaker?—friendly Mills Hardware or perhaps Morrow Hardware down the street. We wouldn't want to be in competition with them. We would allow them the opportunity of maintaining their businesses, yet giving them the benefit of the program and the subsidies that are available. I think they can be brought together and married, if you will, in terms of advancing the objective of the resolution and the intent of the resolution as put forward by the member for Kingston and The Islands.

There are a variety of ways of composting and we kind of touched on them very briefly in terms of the hierarchy. Certainly we want to do it as close as possible so we can each participate. I think therein lies the wisdom of the resolution brought forward today by the member, Mr Wilson, because as we begin to do it, I hope in some sense to reflect upon the sense that as we do those kinds of things, it generates other ideas and generates a sensitivity that spills over into our lifestyle generally. The member for Kingston and The Islands mentioned apartment buildings, how there are opportunities there to do things collectively and cooperatively on that level of community.

Having said all that, I think we have to bear in mind that there are commercial opportunities as well. Not to appear small-minded—I say this and I hope it will be accepted with the sincerity I say it—I would like to add a word to your resolution, Mr Wilson, and that would be simply to say, “That, in the opinion of this House, we should adopt a policy of promoting composting at the place the waste is generated.”

I'm not trying to play word games here; we'd just get caught up in a semantic argument. What I'm trying to say is that at the end of the day there will be materials that will be left over that need to be dealt with on a larger scale, whether it be from the industrial or commercial sector—I think of restaurants, institutions, hospitals, nursing homes and so on, and hotels, the hospitality industry generally—so there would be an opportunity as well for commercial operation, where appropriate, in the area of waste management, composting being a component of waste management.

I just want to share or add that view, that I think that as we do it close to home, which is in terms of the hierarchy the appropriate place for us to begin to do it, and for each one of us to accept responsibility for ourselves and our families and then in our neighbourhoods, that does not exclude the operation of commercial enterprises, where it's appropriate, to deal with the broader community as well. I don't want to imply by any means that the intent of the member for Kingston and The Islands was to exclude that

concept; I just want to highlight that as an option I think we have to keep open.

As well, though, we have to realize there are costs involved in setting up programs, but in my view and I think in the view of members here the cost-benefits far outweigh the dollars and cents, not only in the long-term return on dollars-and-cents value in the community but the value of what we have, the world we have to leave for our kids.

Again, I say to the member for Kingston and The Islands, thank you for bringing forward this resolution, for helping us to again revisit a challenge we each have individually. Every one of us—pages, staff people, men and women who are working in this place as members—has the opportunity to do something and we can begin by doing a very simple concept of composting at home, as you have indicated this morning. For that, I congratulate you and wish you well.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate?

**Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West):** I want to begin by stating that I support the principle of the resolution put forward by the member for Kingston and The Islands this morning.

I note the resolution urges the Minister of the Environment to adopt a policy of composting at the place the organic waste is generated in order to best meet the province's target of diverting 50% of solid waste from landfill sites by the year 2000. The member points out in his resolution two primary reasons for this, number one being it's more cost-effective to compost at source and, second, it eliminates contamination problems that occur at central composting facilities when non-compostables become mixed with compostable materials.

I would point out, though, that my preference would be to ask the member for Kingston and The Islands to really work with the Minister of the Environment to perhaps bring in legislation around this issue rather than simply a private member's resolution this morning. While I am supportive of the resolution, I think it would have more teeth if the government were to bring in legislation similar to that of the principle contained in this morning's resolution.

I also think the NDP government should do more to promote the virtues of composting. It is difficult to force citizens of Ontario—because they are the electorate, they are our bosses—with a heavy-handed approach to compost, but perhaps the government could do more to promote the virtues of composting so that people will want to compost. They've done, as did the Liberal government before them, a number of things to encourage people to compost, but clearly more can be done in that area.

I want to speak for a couple of moments about the environment and landfill sites. One of the reasons I support the principle of this resolution is that it will perhaps do a little bit to take the pressure off landfill sites. Currently, as every member of this Legislature knows, there's tremendous pressure on our existing landfill sites, and I want to bring to the attention of this House once again the pressures we're experiencing in my riding of Simcoe West at the Wasaga Beach landfill site.

I want to give a little history on that particular site to the members. On November 1, 1990, the Minister of the Environment, Mrs Grier, granted the county of Simcoe an emergency certificate of approval which permitted six north Simcoe municipalities to dump their garbage in Wasaga Beach. This certificate enabled the county to operate the Wasaga Beach landfill site for a period of 18 months.

The minister did this even though she possessed studies—and I raised this matter in the House on previous occasions—which indicated that the site might have been environmentally unsound. Even before the minister signed the certificate, there existed a 1990 hydrogeological study which outlined that a trail of contaminated leachate had moved almost one half a kilometre from the Wasaga Beach landfill site. The minister went ahead and granted approval, even though she was aware that the dump was enlarged by 30% on land that was never previously used for landfill.

The minister refused to respond to four letters that I wrote to her and five letters that were written to her by the mayor of Wasaga Beach, Mr Walter Borthwick. In each letter we pleaded with the minister to do the environmentally appropriate thing and halt the additional dumping to the site until an environmental assessment was completed that showed the impact of this added dumping on the site.

The minister stood firm in her silence, I point out, and almost six months after granting the emergency certificate, the Minister of the Environment was quoted in a March 1991 edition of the *Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin* newspaper as saying that she was “hoping” that the county of Simcoe would provide hydrogeological studies measuring the impact of additional dumping at the site. She said, “I hope that the county will get going on this as quickly as possible...they have to submit (the reports) by the 30th of April.”

It's shameful that after allowing an emergency certificate which permitted a sixfold increase without an environmental assessment, the minister could “hope” that a study was being done six months later.

Just to prove that some NDP ministers don't seem to learn from their mistakes and that the environment is sometimes dealt with more as an expedient issue rather than a priority, the Minister of the Environment has recently approved an extension of the emergency certificate for another 18 months. I note in a letter of two days ago, May 12, to the mayor of Wasaga Beach, the minister writes:

“The service area of the site has been expanded for an additional 18 months ending November 1, 1993, to include the towns of Midland and Penetanguishene, the townships of Tay and Tiny and the villages of Port McNicoll and Victoria Harbour.”

Again, we have another expansion without an environmental assessment. They don't compost at that site either. That's one reason I want to relate this experience to today's resolution.

1050

I want to continue, though. In granting the extension the minister once again reneged on a commitment to the environment. It's a commitment she made not only to me

in this House but to Wasaga Beach council and the citizens of Wasaga Beach. In a letter of January 1992, the mayor of Wasaga Beach wrote to the Minister of the Environment:

“At the time of your meeting with us (May 1991), you will recall that considerable discussion took place with regards to the circumstances surrounding the county's expanded use of the Wasaga Beach site. Ultimately, I believe, we all agreed that, at that point, there was nothing to be gained by further hand-wringing or soul-searching regarding events that already had taken place. Instead council took comfort in your assurances that the landfill would not be expanded nor would the life of the emergency certificate of approval be extended, without the county of Simcoe proceeding through the normal process and having the Environmental Assessment Board hold a hearing under part V of the Environmental Protection Act.”

The promised hearing was never held, yet an extension of the emergency certificate was granted recently. The town of Wasaga Beach relies on tourism, as all members know. It has become an innocent victim of environmental politics, because the minister has not exercised leadership on the environment, and the result is that North Simcoe has no motivation to resolve its environmental problems as long as Wasaga Beach is there to accept its garbage.

I also want to point out that the minister is again now promising that in the next 18 months there will be an environmental assessment. We aren't very encouraged by yet another promise, given that in the last 18 months no environmental assessment was done.

I want to point out to members that this particular site is very close to North America's largest freshwater beach. It has never had an environmental assessment, because it was established years before that requirement was brought into law. There's certainly very much a concern among the citizens of Wasaga Beach. I wanted to take the opportunity to mention that in the context of today's resolution, because I support the resolution in principle. It may take some pressure off existing landfill sites like Wasaga Beach, but I ask the member, in addition to the principle brought forward in his resolution today—I know he means well—to sit down with his Minister of the Environment and solve problems that exist at Wasaga Beach.

I think it's very important. The NDP candidate in that area said there'd never be an extension without an environmental assessment. He got that right out of the rule book in the Agenda for People that the candidates used during the election. I ask the government to live up to those commitments: not to simply continue the rhetoric on the environment, but to make firm commitments and take the action the people of Ontario want.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate?

**Mr Robert Frankford (Scarborough East):** I'm very pleased to have an opportunity to participate in this very thoughtful resolution presented by my colleague the member for Kingston and The Islands. I'll try to be brief so another of my colleagues can contribute.

Like my colleague the member for Windsor-Walkerville, we are a two-composter family. I can see this is going to be a mark of political correctness. We got our composters

through the facilities of the Ministry of the Environment and Metropolitan Toronto at a subsidized price. Many members of Metropolitan Toronto are taking advantage of this. It is obviously a very popular program so far, but this resolution is going to help the acceptability and the desire of more people to participate in this.

I'm very pleased to notice emphasis on local approaches. As the member says, if one can keep the compost locally, we can use it to reclaim urban land, even to develop urban food production, which is something I have become very interested in. The more I talk about it the more I find that members of my community in Scarborough East get very excited about it.

One thing I would mention around getting the composter is that at the same time you sign a consent to participate in some study. I think this is something to be complimented and to emphasize that we need information about how it's being used and the long-term effects. I know that the feedback, as it were, goes to well-qualified environmentalists working with the ministry and Metro Toronto. I think it's very important as we develop these initiatives to find out what's the overall impact on it to confirm our expectations that this is going to improve the quality of urban soil.

I'm also very pleased to note the way my colleague the member for Kingston and The Islands emphasizes other settings such as schools. As the member from across the floor said, there's considerable interest in schools. If you go to schools in my riding they ask you, "What are you doing to preserve farm land?" I fully support his comments that it really grabs the attention of school children; they feel part of it. I'm very pleased to see that as part of this resolution.

Before I finish, I must admit to one personal problem which I think needs considerable research and development. Every morning I take out my companion animal, who was himself recycled from the Scarborough animal shelter. There is the problem of his organic waste which, of course, being a public figure, I have to remove and take home, but I have to take it in a non-compostable plastic bag. I would ask for guidance and intensive research on this topic, but I am very pleased to support this resolution.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate?

**Ms Margaret H. Harrington (Niagara Falls):** I'd like to add a few comments, especially with regard to how this affects my riding of Niagara Falls. But first of all I want to thank my colleagues on all sides of the House for some very thoughtful remarks. Certainly, composting makes so much sense. We all have to agree with it and clearly my colleagues are dedicated to this.

The first thing I thought about composting is to save resources and, as the member for Kingston and The Islands said, not to mix the compostable with the non-compostable materials is the essential step. In the last couple of years I moved to the historic village of Chippawa in the south end of Niagara Falls and was very surprised at the soil there. I was out there last weekend trying to dig into it and it is clay. It's almost like bricks of clay, so everything I can I

try to put into this soil to try to make it a little bit better so that I can do something with it.

The city of Niagara Falls, I believe, is way ahead of the rest of the province. At least I always thought that, but I think we're all getting on the bandwagon and going in the right direction. I used to think we were great leaders, probably because we were forward-thinking, but I realize now that it's probably because we had a very difficult crunch with regard to our landfill site. When that happens, all of the communities across this province have to look at alternatives and that's probably what forced us to look in other directions.

Every June we have Environment Day within the city and in the past couple of years we've had a wonderful display of various things and panel debates on environmental issues at Kingsbridge Park. All kinds of things go on on Environment Day and over the past couple of years we have sold composters: 929 were sold to the public in 1990; 780 were sold in 1991; 13 worm composters were sold in 1991, three of these to schools. The city also operated a home composting demonstration site in October 1991.

How does this happen? It's of course in conjunction with the Ministry of the Environment, which supplies two thirds of the cost, and then the people who buy these only have to pay one third of the cost. It's very reasonable. I remember when this first happened two years ago on Environment Day, people were lined up at 8 in the morning to try to buy these composters. So it's a very popular thing.

1100

I also wanted to mention that in Niagara Falls in the last couple of years we have started composting leaves. The actual city of Niagara Falls does this as a demonstration project at our Mountain Road landfill site. We collect the leaves in the fall from across the city and put them at this site. Now it's becoming very good compost and hopefully is going to be used very soon.

The caution I have for this, as the member for Kingston and the Islands mentioned, is that it has to be done closer to the source, because the cost of this type of thing to the city is substantial. If we are trying to do other pickup of compostable material, which the city was going to implement this year and had to stop because of budget constraints—it did not put the money forward to do pickup of other compostable materials. I think it points to the bare fact that in this kind of economy it just makes real sense that you do it in your own backyard, as the member has said.

I also want to mention that as a science teacher, I taught grade 9 science a couple of years ago and the students are really eager to get involved in all kinds of environmental concerns. They are the ones in our school who decided we had to have the blue boxes to put their pop cans in. They decided they wanted to lead the way, so they urged the city to do this. The city said, "No, we can't do that," but now we've got blue boxes in apartments and schools, and now we're getting the restaurants, with all the excess food in Niagara Falls, to try to compost and recycle. We're also trying to get the Niagara Parks Commission to recycle as well.

**The Acting Speaker:** The honourable member for Kingston and The Islands has two minutes for concluding remarks.

**Mr Gary Wilson:** I want to thank the members who have contributed to this debate. It certainly shows that composting is a subject that enjoys a lot of support, and the very thoughtful comments that were made show that there are a number of areas where this important subject still has to grow.

I would like to mention just a couple of the remarks that were made. The member for Brampton North, for instance, highlighted the aspect of how our children are such an important element here. His son was correcting him on some of his habits, and while I don't expect that to extend to the political sphere, at least it's good that it's now at the composting stage and will become habitual for us.

I think the remarks can be said to have been made in a cooperative spirit. Some of the items that were mentioned about what our government is doing highlight the importance of our work in the area of composting. By coming together in this fairly simple procedure, we can move on to more thorny issues and deal with them also in a cooperative way.

Again, we want to highlight through composting that how we deal with our waste is a personal responsibility for all of us. By taking on composting, we are dealing with it at a personal level.

Some of the speakers mentioned that it is very important to get composters out into the community. I think the member for Scarborough East mentioned the follow-up that is so important, to see that people are using them and what their experience is with them. I think from the remarks that were made here, there is a lot of knowledge about composting and a lot of support. We can come together as neighbourhoods to support this activity for each other.

In conclusion, I just want to say that composting is a simple thing but it will lead to a different way of looking at the world. We will take on that stewardship that will extend to all our natural resources.

**The Acting Speaker:** The time for ballot item number 7 has expired.

#### ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr Brown moved resolution 8:

That in the opinion of this House, the government should establish immediately a select committee on energy and the environment to investigate the following factors and make recommendations:

In view of the increasing evidence of the contribution of combustion of fossil fuels to global warming, among other contributors, substantial understanding of the implications of climatic change on the environment and economy of Ontario and on human activity, and widespread public concern regarding these issues, and in view of the fact that energy policy has a direct bearing on these issues because of its impact on the mix, level and efficiency of use of all types of primary energy resources, to identify the extent to which current provincial energy policy affects carbon dioxide emissions, the potential for controlling, stabilizing or reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and the

types of public policy or program initiatives to achieve the objectives of limiting the adverse environmental and economic impacts of carbon dioxide emissions, and to consider:

(i) all energy sources, including oil, natural gas, coal, electricity and alternative energy sources, with an emphasis on energy produced by the combustion of fossil fuels to provide heat or motive power;

(ii) in the case of electricity and alternative energy sources, both the direct use of fossil fuels and the economic potential for non-combustion energy sources;

(iii) demand management initiatives, including energy efficiency, with respect to their roles as non-carbon dioxide-forming sources of energy, and

(iv) all sectors of energy applications, including the industrial, commercial, residential, institutional and transportation sectors.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville):** Pursuant to standing order 94(c)(i), the member has 10 minutes for his presentation.

**Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin):** Despite the wordiness of that particular resolution, it is essentially simple. What I'm attempting to do with this resolution is to revive the select committee on energy that existed in the 34th Parliament, which was looking at exactly the same mandate.

All I have done here is to reiterate the mandate of the former committee. I did that because it is important that we build upon the work that was done by that committee. It is important that we take advantage of the research that was done by the committee, the information that was provided and the expertise the committee had. That explains, at least in part, why it took me so long to read that particular resolution.

I think that when we talk about global warming we should all be disturbed, because we have a tremendous problem. If we ask the people of Ontario what the most important environmental issues in their minds are, they will list a number of things. They will talk about waste disposal, recycling, water quality and air quality, but the polls tell us—and yes, I read polls—that global warming is not at the top of the agenda. If we asked the scientific community what it thinks is the most important environmental issue facing the planet today, it will say global warming.

So we have a problem, and that's why I think we as legislators have to do our part in raising the public consciousness about this very important issue. Somehow we have to be able to lead, but in this business you can never lead by being too far in front. We have to be able to get the public, the people we represent, on the same wavelength as us as parliamentarians, as legislators, in order that we can encourage them to become part of the solution, because the solution may in fact involve some changes to our lifestyle and some changes to the way we do business.

I think perhaps we should take a moment and talk about what global warming is. Global warming is just the warming of the planet. We know that for the last 10,000 years the planet has been warming. It's a natural occurrence—nothing to get too greatly excited about. It's been happening. Over 10,000 years the planet has warmed

about five degrees Celsius. The scientific estimates tell us, however, that we are beginning to warm at a much more rapid rate and that within the next 50 years we will warm—the estimates vary a bit—they tell us, between 1.5 degrees Celsius and 4.5 degrees Celsius. If it is at the upper end of that band, this planet will warm the same in 50 years as it has done in the previous 10,000 years. That to me will cause great and difficult circumstances for everyone inhabiting this planet.

1110

Some of the consequences people think might occur are: Sea levels will rise but the Great Lakes levels will fall. Storms may become more prolonged and intense. Floods and erosion may increase. Summer dry periods may lengthen. Groundwater levels may fall and water quality may suffer. The northern permafrost may melt and turn to bogs. Previously trapped greenhouse gases like methane could be released in large amounts and it would accelerate the warming. Plant and animal species may have to adapt and change habitats.

In fact, we have seen the effects of global warming slowly over time. We have seen agricultural land that was once good agricultural land become what is now desert. The problem is the rapidity of the change.

Having said that, we know there is a relationship between greenhouse gases and how warm the planet is on average. We know that relationship exists. We know that carbon dioxide, methane, nitric oxide and ozone all contribute to the warming of the planet, and we all know that the levels of those gases in the atmosphere are rising dramatically. It's not a question; we know that. We also know where those gases come from primarily. Mr Speaker, as you will know, they come from the burning of all fossil fuels. Some are better than others, but nevertheless all fossil fuels are the main contributor to the global warming effect.

We have done some things in this province to consider that. A ministerial report on global warming with a series of recommendations and challenges was issued, I believe, in 1989 by the then Minister of Energy, the Honourable Lyn McLeod, who is presently our leader. At the same time we had initiated the select committee on energy which was, I think, a very non-partisan sort of committee. It was a committee that did what I think we as legislators should do; that is, meet, examine the facts, get the experts in, have them tell the committee what should be done, tell the committee what the options really are, so that we as legislators can provide at least agreement on the facts. I'm not sure we'll ever agree on all the solutions, but I think we could agree as legislators on what the problem is, what the gases are, what can be done and at what cost, because of course that's the other part of the equation.

At the same time in Toronto in 1988 we had—let me get this right—the Conference on the Changing Environment. It was a worldwide conference held right here in this city. I want to read you the conclusion they came to:

"Humanity is conducting an unintended, uncontrolled, globally pervasive experiment whose ultimate consequences could be second only to global nuclear war. The Earth's atmosphere is being changed at an unprecedented rate by pollutants resulting from human activities, inefficient

and wasteful fossil fuel use and the effects of rapid population growth in many regions. These changes represent a major threat to international security and are already having harmful consequences over many parts of the globe."

What I'm calling on us to do is to take advantage of what a previous legislative committee has done. We should take advantage of those resources as we try to put Ontario at the forefront of this battle. We have countries like the Netherlands that are leading the world in its policies regarding global warming. They have very ambitious targets and are working very hard to meet them.

I find myself feeling somewhat like a hypocrite as I talk about maybe the greatest global warming issue that we all talk about, and that's the Amazon rain forest. We all stand there and say: "Gee, they shouldn't cut those trees. They shouldn't farm that land. They shouldn't burn those trees. It's going to have a devastating effect on the environment." At the same time, I stand here right now in the middle of one of the largest clear-cuts in the world, which we call the city of Toronto, or I stand out 10 miles from here in another huge clear-cut we call farms, and say to these people, "You can't do it."

What I'm saying is that we have to understand that in Ontario we produce, each one of us, four tonnes of carbon dioxide each year. We are fourth in the world in terms of doing this. We have to gain the moral authority to say to these folks, "Yes, you've got to watch what you're doing," but we've got to be sure we're giving them the right message in that we ourselves are doing it at home, or we will have no effect on world opinion.

As I conclude my remarks, I would say I'm going to listen very intently to what other members have to say on this issue and would urge their support.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate? The honourable member for Lanark-Renfrew.

**Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I'd like to congratulate you. It's my first time to rise in the House and have you as the Acting Speaker, and I wish you the very best of luck.

I would like at this time to speak in support of the resolution by the member for Algoma-Manitoulin. I think it's a very important resolution. Actually, what he's asking the government to do is to re-establish the select committee on energy and the environment. This was an excellent method, in our opinion, of dealing with this issue.

As you know, Bill 118 will soon be coming before the House for third reading. During the time it was before the standing committee on resources development we travelled across Ontario to the different locations in northern Ontario and southern Ontario. The complete province, you might say, had an opportunity to debate that bill. We did not find in any location people who were involved in business or who understood the bill or who in any way had an understanding of the relationship of fossil fuels and their net effect on the environment—none of these people were in favour of Bill 118, basically because it gave the government the power to place a moratorium on nuclear energy.

The sad part is that during the environmental hearings the government very quickly, through Ontario Hydro,

brought forth a new demand-supply plan. Basically, what they did in those five short months in preparing that plan was to take into account the recession that we are going through in Ontario, take into account the conservation programs that they've been initiating, planning to spend \$6 billion on conservation. Six billion dollars is half the price of the Darlington generating station; \$6 billion is the amount of money that the opposition party caused as a loss to the people of Ontario by delaying Darlington by two years. That's actually what it cost the people of Ontario to delay that project for two years, and still we go on and try to blame the cost of Darlington on problems related to nuclear, which they are not.

1120

The reason I'm talking about Darlington is that the select committee on energy and Ontario Hydro—which has an excellent research department; it has its own environmental studies within the corporation, and it is a very conscientious group relative to the environment—for approximately five years studied what the best way was to supply electricity at a reasonable cost to the people of Ontario and keep the environment in mind.

The result of that study was that the base load should be nuclear, not fossil fuels, which give more CO<sub>2</sub> into the air. The only problem with nuclear was how to store the spent bundles of fuel that are presently immersed in a water tank. There is permanent storage now available. All we need is a positive approach to it and a committee set up to decide on a site for that.

Ontario Hydro then took that plan across the province as the plan that would be most friendly to the environment and yet give the people of the province the electricity they would require. Unfortunately the government, without study, when it assumed power placed a moratorium on the whole question.

I see my friend across waving at me; I'm sure he got the same message as we took Bill 118 across the province. Our final position on it was: Please withdraw the bill and refer energy in Ontario to a committee. It was basically agreeable to the committee that we would do that, because I think it's important that we can have certainty of supply and certainty of cost and do it in such a way that we have the least effect on the environment.

To use natural gas because we can say, "Well, we can bring the generation on-line in maybe four years as compared to approximately 12 years to bring on a uranium-fired steam plant"—and I would like to refer to our nuclear base as that, uranium-fired steam plants. I might mention that the problems at Darlington that I have been advised of and have looked into are mechanical problems; they are not related to heating the water with uranium. There is a problem with the shaft of the large generator that's causing a vibration, but that would be the same regardless of how we heated the water to make the steam.

The other problem is in the tubing itself. The tubing at Darlington is designed in such a way that it's creating what you can refer to as air locks or hammer locks in the system, which under pressure over time could cause a problem in that tubing. They are correcting that now. They have the design changed and ready to go into place, as I

understand it. So outside of the previous government delaying it for two years and increasing the cost by \$6 billion, I can't see us continually pointing at Darlington as the reason our hydro rates are high and are going to continue to be high.

That 25-year demand-supply plan went across the province to every municipality, and every county government had a chance to give input. It was accepted as being the least harmful to the environment yet making use of any hydraulic site that was feasible and making use of natural gas where required, but establishing the base supply with the energy that is the least harmful to the environment.

I welcome the member's resolution today to re-establish this committee. This is the same idea we had in the hearings on Bill 118: re-establish this committee or call the committee whatever you like, but that it be a select committee to study energy in Ontario and to study the effects of the CO<sub>2</sub> and the global warming that's going to take place if we follow this government's plan to provide electricity for the people in Ontario.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate?

**Mr Will Ferguson (Kitchener):** I am pleased to join in this debate on the resolution from the member for Algoma-Manitoulin. We just heard from the member for Lanark-Renfrew, and it's very clear to me that he continues to wallow in the shallow end of the energy pool, because of course there are some important facts that he left out of his argument. To suggest that the only problem with Darlington or the nuclear industry is what to do with the spent fuel rods ignores a much larger problem.

In northern Ontario, he might be aware, there are currently about 225 hectares of low-to-medium radioactive mine tailings lying on the ground that nobody seems to want to take responsibility for—not the mine, not the company, not the federal government. It appears that the responsibility and the buck is going to stop here with the province of Ontario.

In any event I do welcome the member's resolution. I want to remind the members that a committee is already in existence of assistant deputy ministers who are studying exactly what the member for Algoma-Manitoulin has asked for in his resolution. While I don't have strong feelings in opposition to the resolution, I do want to tell you that I believe such a committee would be somewhat of a duplication. At this point in time the committee is preparing a report that I understand cabinet will be considering in the near future.

I think we have to recognize that Ontario has the highest spending on conservation as well as demand-supply management activities in the entire country. While we're all concerned about the greenhouse effect I think we also have to recognize that the greenhouse effect relates directly to the amount of energy that is consumed, used and expended here in this country. The Ontario Ministry of Energy has spent over \$13 million on energy program activities, real programs that people can readily utilize and readily access.

We're not talking about running a few commercials on television suggesting people turn off their lights if they go out of their homes for the evening. We're not talking about

running advertisements. I think one featured a gangly furnace that suggested it consumed far too much oil and people ought to switch off that energy source on to another. We're talking about real programs that are meaningful, that people can access and utilize and that will make a difference to the bottom line for their energy costs, be it for their homes, their places of business, places of work or during their recreational activities.

This government recognized that and, as a result, in 1990 we announced the New Energy Directions and it was issued. This has been a continual follow-up and implementation of that very broad-brushed general direction. This was the first province to adopt an Energy Efficiency Act. Let's give some credit where credit is due: It was brought about by the previous government. I applaud them for that. It has been the model that other provinces across this country have accepted. Other provinces are well on their way. Either they have implemented or they're in the process of implementing new energy efficiency acts. So we recognize the importance of providing hard-core programs that people can readily access.

1130

In addition, I think for the first time in the life of this province, we also recognize the important role Ontario Hydro has to play in the energy field. Surely to goodness, given the role it plays in the province, it ought not to be ignored. We have given it a significant role by way of Bill 118, the amendments to the Power Corporation Act, that for the first time will give Hydro the authority and power it needs in order to follow the directions as established by this government.

The member for Algoma-Manitoulin suggested that the select committee on energy in fact did table its report and that this would be a natural extension and follow-up to that report. I want to tell you a little bit about that report.

The committee heard that the global climate change is a prime example of an environmental effect that, I think we all recognize, disregards national and provincial boundaries. Greenhouse gases, of course, know no boundaries; acid rain knows no boundaries. Without question, the energy policy of this province is an important component of the efforts to achieve some climate stability, but I think we also have to recognize that of course Ontario can't do it alone. Ontario needs the cooperation and assistance of the other provinces across Canada. Let's also recognize that at least within the last 18 months Ontario has indeed led the way. I'm proud and I think everybody in this House is proud that Ontario has been the model to follow, but as this country is very energy-intensive by world standards and is among the world's largest emitters of carbon dioxide on a per capita basis, without question we have to take concrete action.

You will know that earlier this year the federal proposals were examined by this government and weren't supported. They weren't supported for some very clear reasons, although targets were established by the year 2000. Quite frankly, I don't know what the magic is in the year 2000 and I'm not exactly sure why the year 2000 has been chosen, but although targets have been established for the year 2000, a pretty important piece of information

was left out of that: What was left out is how we're going to achieve the target that was set for the year 2000.

I had the pleasure and the opportunity to attend the energy ministers' conference late last year in the Maritimes. What was interesting was talking with my colleagues at the time across the country. We talked about what standards should be developed and set. Each and every one of them said they were extremely concerned about the reaction of the business community, and from their viewpoint the business community continually said it can't afford to set a standard that would not be achievable, in its view, and could not be afforded.

This province has taken some concrete initiatives, as I said originally, to address the energy question which relates, obviously, to the emission problem we have. I just wanted to run very briefly through some of the major programs we've put in place.

Under the industrial retrofit grants programs, grants are provided to help install energy-efficient equipment in the manufacturing process. A number of firms across this province have accessed that grant, and it does two things: It reduces their fuel costs, which of course reduces the amount of emissions; it also improves their bottom line and makes them all that much more cost-competitive.

Ontario Hydro, under the direction of this government and on its own initiative as well, has developed a number of programs, such as the power saver energy audit program, which will provide electrical audits that help identify energy saving opportunities. They have a number of financial assistance programs that provide outright grants and rebates for the purchase of much more efficient and effective electric motors, refrigeration equipment, lighting and process equipment.

Ontario Hydro has also been involved in a very significant way in load shifting. Under load shifting they reward companies when they shift to use electricity during periods of much lower consumption. The electricity rates of course are priced much more cheaply when electrical demand is lower, during the off-peak hours.

The Ministry of Energy's programs have been welcomed by the general public. They've been looking for something a little more meaningful than a few TV advertisements suggesting what they should or shouldn't do. The commercial buildings energy management program has to date saved more than 49 billion kilowatt-hours of power. The energy-efficient communities program, which communities are now accessing, has been extremely successful in very real terms, being operated by the chambers of commerce in a number of communities. With regard to government energy management itself, this government is looking at the buildings it operates to upgrade those facilities, this precinct being one of those; I think we all recognize that this has to be one of the most energy-inefficient buildings in the province. In addition, we have put together an energy education package.

What I really am most impressed with is the number of industrial programs to assist the industrial sector. Not only will it become much more cost-competitive but reduce the consumption, not for one year but for ensuing years as well.

**Mr Jordan:** What about lightbulbs?

**Mr Ferguson:** My good friend the member for Lanark-Renfrew yells across the floor, "What about lightbulbs?" I want to tell the member for Lanark-Renfrew that this has to have been one of the most popular programs ever. In fact, people are still calling me today, wondering where their lightbulbs are. There was a slight glitch in the distribution of the bulbs, but people appreciated receiving some real benefit in a material way that they could use in their home to lower their energy consumption.

Interjections.

**The Acting Speaker:** Would the member take his seat. We were doing quite well for quite a long time in the House, but I'm afraid things are breaking down a bit. If the members could please restrain themselves a bit, the honourable member for Kitchener has the floor.

**Mr Ferguson:** Let me conclude by saying that with the past changes as well as the proposed changes to the building code, with all the initiatives this government has taken to date and will be putting in place in the future, when you stack up all those against what the other provincial jurisdictions are doing across this country, without question we are leading the way. I guess the obvious comeback to that is, "Could you be doing more?" We can always be doing more. We will attempt to do as much as we possibly can, given the financial difficulties that not only this province but every other province faces.

Although I have no difficulty supporting the resolution of the member across the way, I want to suggest that, given the work of the ADMs and the report they are currently working on and will be submitting to cabinet, I really think it would be somewhat counterproductive and very much a duplication of the members' time if in fact we did establish the select committee once again to examine the report that past governments have tended to leave sitting on shelves.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate?

1140

**Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre):** I'm very pleased to participate in this debate, and I want to congratulate my colleague the member for Algoma-Manitoulin for bringing before the House what I think is an important issue and presenting it in a way that is non-partisan and that in fact addresses some of the vital issues that affect not only Ontario but the entire world.

I served as Chair of the select committee on energy when the identical mandate of Mr Brown's resolution was put forward. That mandate was drafted to ensure that the committee would have a broad range of activity and examination as it looked at the entire question of global warming.

There were many members of the House who are in government now who also sat on that committee. The current Minister of the Environment, Ruth Grier, was a member of the committee and the current Minister of Energy, Mr Charlton, was a member of that committee, and it seems to me that the issues that were raised and the matters that were discussed should be uppermost in their minds today.

The mandate of the committee evolved from the work of international bodies in this area and from the thought that one should think globally and act globally. As a result

of that, the Minister of Energy at the time—my colleague referred to Mrs McLeod—acted on the notion that the province should assess its potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and analyse the potential economic impacts of doing so.

She knew at the time, in 1989, that Ontario's contribution to the concentration of greenhouse gases was about 1% of the world total, but she also knew that Ontario's contribution did not lessen the importance of our contribution to either the problem or the solution.

Ontario, as the largest energy user in Canada, must share the responsibility for what is happening in the global atmosphere, and there are side benefits of action as well. Many of the steps that can be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are beneficial in their own right. They include increasing energy efficiency as well as the side benefit of decreasing pollution.

When Mrs McLeod was Energy minister the province adopted targets of a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from 1988 levels by the year 2000. The former Minister of Energy asked why the year 2000 was picked. I would have thought he would know that target followed the framework of the World Conference on the Changing Atmosphere. It was not a simple one to meet. With increased energy usage, even stabilizing greenhouse gases would require directed effort and heavy cost, and the target was set to reduce the major greenhouse gas emission, carbon dioxide.

The select committee on energy was to take government targets further and look at the reality of where in the industrial sector the highest greenhouse gases were produced, where the potential for reduction of those gases existed and what that potential was.

The mandate of the committee was commenced at that time in what I think was a creditable way and was envisaged at the time to be the work of more than one session. Unfortunately, an election intervened and work has stopped. I believe that is a sad misstep.

I think in its initial approach the committee was creative, and I hope that if the Legislature passes this resolution, a similarly creative approach would be taken. All of us in the House know what resources are available to us as members, and to those of us on the committee the mandate that was before us was a daunting one indeed. It required considerable specialized research resources, it required access to provincial, national and international expertise and it required an intensive learning period for each one of us.

One of the things I'm proud of and which, in my experience here, marked the committee as being singularly unique was that it required each of the members to approach the issue as a way to understand the debate that was occurring not only in Ontario but around the world; as an area of public policy where making political points wasn't a pre-eminent goal; as a way that each of us could be informed ambassadors and resource people in explaining the issues and the policy choices, and as a way to ensure that the individual committee members had the potential to frame a final report that would influence government action.

We did some things differently. Global warming experts with international prestige live just across the road

from me. I think of Ken Hare, a distinguished academic with opinions and a demanding intellectual and practical approach. But the experts live also in Ottawa and work for the federal government. They live in Amsterdam, they live in London, they live in Germany, they live in California.

If our committee were to get a full picture of the current research, the facts, the myths, the options, it was important for us to talk to those people. So instead of opting for a trip, we invited those experts to appear before us. Perhaps because they thought it was so unusual that a legislative committee wanted their views, they came.

The legislative members had the chance to question the experts about the causes, the potential effects, the action alternatives, the ice age and the economic choices. Some of our questions were naïve; some were sophisticated. Some led to changes in our preconceptions and some made us dig in our heels. But what we wanted to do was to participate in the development of a preventive strategy.

The committee engaged the Royal Society of Canada to conduct particular research for us. This was the first time a legislative committee had been involved in this kind of working relationship with an acknowledged body of outside expertise. For the Royal Society, it was a new experience as well, one that I hope it thinks was fruitful.

I get tired frankly around this place of too much opinion formed as a result of reception conversation. I think people who spend the greater part of their lives working seriously on matters of great public importance get tired of listening to legislators who reach conclusions based on too little information and too much opinion. So when it's possible to draw on that expertise, that concentrated learning in our work, I think it ennobles us all and makes a positive contribution to decision-making.

The Royal Society prepared a report for us on the technical potential for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions for major industrial energy users in Ontario. That report was to have been circulated to those users as a preliminary document so they could participate in a public hearing process and put their own research findings on the public agenda.

One of the things we discovered was that there was an enormous amount of private sector research done in this field as well. Steel companies, automobile manufacturers and companies in the energy sector have all done significant research, most of it directed to practical outcomes, technical and technological change. We thought we might reach a meeting of the minds between academic analysis and the technical and economic feasibility as we continued our work.

As a result of the studies, we have seen no action from the government and we see no initiative being taken in this key environmental area. I believe the select committee should be reconstructed to pursue the excellent work the first committee has done. Scientists tell us the effect of a hand clap can be heard at the farthest side of the farthest star. If we begin work and continue work here in Ontario, we will be adding, on the whole, to the world perspective on global warming.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate?

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** I am pleased to have this opportunity to say a few words on this resolution from the member for Algoma-Manitoulin. This resolution calls on the provincial government to establish a select committee on energy and the environment to identify the extent to which current provincial energy policy affects carbon dioxide emissions, the potential for controlling, stabilizing and reducing the carbon dioxide emissions, and the types of public policy or program initiatives to limit the adverse environmental and economic impacts of these emissions.

The principle of this resolution is certainly admirable. I cannot think of one single member of this Legislature who is not concerned about the increasing evidence of the contribution the combustion of fossil fuels is making to global warming. There's not one of us here who can claim he or she is not aware of the implications of climate change on the environment and the economy of the province or on human activity.

However, I have some serious reservations about this resolution because common sense tells us that economic opportunity, social justice and health care cannot be attained by just tossing money around. Common sense tells me that the taxpayers of Ontario do not want their hard-earned money tossed to make another select committee of this province look at the aspects of this resolution. I believe there are plenty of reports on shelves just waiting to be looked at, and mainly they're collecting dust.

1150

Our social structure is stretched to the limit by our soaring costs for health, education and welfare. It is time, when the NDP budget has brought more of the same for our taxpayers in Ontario, more tax hikes and more deficit increases, which they also gave us last year.

Instead of improving Ontario's ability to attract investment, create jobs and retain those we already have, the Treasurer decided to continue with his government's tax-spend-borrow approach to fiscal management. The reason I'm saying this is that a select committee does cost money when the Treasurer has a deficit of \$9.9 billion, which is only an estimate, at a time when the government's spending increases this year by 4.9% to \$54.8 billion; at a time when Ontario's net debt will grow to \$82 billion by 1995-96; at a time when every man, woman and child in Ontario owes \$8,200.

As I said earlier, I support this resolution in principle because I believe there has to be a look at what is taking place with regard to energy. But not only that, I had the opportunity some years ago to sit on a select committee on energy. At that time we looked at the Lakeview generating station and at concerns that many of the people had raised and brought to our attention about the coal being burnt to run that generating station, up to 2,000 tonnes a day. We were looking at the aspect of putting the scrubbers on that very facility and to this day I've no idea why those scrubbers have not been placed on that energy-generating facility, other than the fact that they cost \$50 million. But what are we doing with the pollution we're putting into the air?

I had the opportunity to travel to northern Ontario and look at the Kakabeka Falls with regard to the power that

station was generating. There are lots of places across this province, some in my own riding and some in the riding of Muskoka-Georgian Bay, where fuel, hydro and energy can be provided with regard to water power. They have redone the Big Chute. That is a facility—and anybody who travels on a boat through the Trent-Severn system will have the opportunity to go by that facility—that they're redoing to make generation more feasible and to increase the generation that's going to come from that facility.

As we look at the energy we can put in place in this province through the use of man-made generating stations, small ones—I'm sure, Mr Speaker, there are some in your riding of Victoria-Haliburton that at the present time are already being used for that very purpose—to strike a select committee to look into a lot of the aspects of generating energy for fossil-fuel emissions, I say to you that there are lots of studies sitting on the shelves.

I think the intentions of the member bringing this resolution forward in the riding he represents in northern Ontario—there's probably every indication that there are facilities there that can be updated and brought up to standard whereby they would produce an awful lot more energy. While I have some reservations with regard to the resolution, in the end I don't find a lot of problem supporting it because I believe his intentions are good. If it's going to create fuel through the use of water power then I'm all for it. I commend the member for Algoma-Manitoulin and I also commend the member for Lanark-Renfrew who spoke before me with his knowledge and background. I appreciate it.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate? There are 59 seconds for the honourable member for Peterborough.

**Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough):** I'll do what I can. I want to commend the member for Algoma-Manitoulin for raising this important issue. I support anything which will increase our sense of urgency and result in fast action to keep this planet habitable.

I also want to point out that nuclear power, in spite of anything the member for Lanark-Renfrew has to say, is not a solution for global warming problems. Possible scenarios have been exhaustively studied. Nuclear power stations need vast amounts of fossil fuel input to get built in the first place, and I've heard that this can cancel out as much as 12 years of what they subsequently produce. They are very expensive indeed, we have not solved the problem of waste disposal, and however slight the risk of accident may be, the resulting catastrophe is such that it cannot be contemplated. Nuclear power presupposes political and societal stability, and the mining of uranium is hazardous.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate?

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** I'm pleased to be able to participate in this debate and I want to congratulate the member for Algoma-Manitoulin on bringing forward his resolution today. It is interesting to note that we have two resolutions before the House this morning which deal with the environment. This is rather unique, because my view at this time is that people have a right to be very discouraged with the degree of emphasis placed on

the environment in general in our world, and certainly that world extends to the province of Ontario.

I used to watch with a great deal of interest as the lead story on television or radio newscasts would be an environmental story, an issue of some kind being dealt with, sometimes in depth and sometimes on an emergency basis, or when I used to see headlines in the newspapers dealing with environmental issues and we saw some think pieces on environmental issues that allowed people to make judgments based on extensive information provided to them.

I must say I'm very discouraged today that this in fact is not happening and that the environment has been, by circumstance or otherwise, pushed clearly into the background. I can remember that when I was Minister of the Environment, CBC Radio Noon—some people call it NDP Radio Noon—used to call the office from time to time looking for somebody to comment on something. Today it seems to be preoccupied with, "What was your memory of your first prom?" 17 different ways to wash your windows, how to keep your garden in good shape and how to entertain the kids during the holidays.

A lot of the investigative work that used to be done has just disappeared now as we seem to be dealing with a lot of other issues. I say that not in a partisan sense. I say it lamenting the fact—and you, Mr Speaker, have a great interest, I know, in environmental issues—that we don't have that emphasis in the news media or in the general public, it seems, on environmental issues. Yet I think if you scratch the surface, you will find that people still have that genuine concern about the environment.

Another program I used to listen to was Metro Morning. Now I listen to the Minister of Health for an hour of free time where lobbed-ball questions are fired at her and no opposition people are allowed on to make any comments. At least I would say that they had a health care issue being discussed on Metro Morning, but we don't have the environmental issues there any more.

The environmentalists who used to be in the Legislature, very often with press conferences and extremely critical of governments that were actually doing an awful lot to address issues on the environment, seem to have disappeared. I think they're experiencing perhaps the same problem as everybody else, that there is not that degree of interest within the news media on the issues, so they can't present it.

I can't believe that some are simply playing out a socialist agenda first and an environmental agenda second. I can't believe it because I know too many people in the environmental groups who were very concerned about the issues and not simply about the political stripe of the party that happened to be in power.

1200

I notice that the Ministry of the Environment is having a difficult time with budgets. There was a tremendous growth in the budgets over a period of about five years, well over 100% growth. Today, as treasury board exercises its initiatives, we're seeing cuts in that. I lament that for the sake of the Minister of the Environment. I know the Minister of the Environment. I know she has a strong commitment to the environment. I'm sure she would like to

have more resources available to her. I'm sure she would not want to be elbowed aside by other ministries.

I notice, for instance, that the acid rain office appears to have disappeared in the Ministry of the Environment, and that's of concern to the people in northern and central Ontario particularly. There appears to be nothing happening in clean air at all. A clean air program was announced in July or August, 1990. There appears to be no progress on that at all in Ontario; virtually nothing appears to be happening. I attribute that first to the economy and the emphasis on the economy, and second to the fact that there's a lack of pressure and a lack of interest.

This is where I think this committee can have a positive effect. The committee can focus attention once again on environmental issues. Every minister—and I can recall this—really needs, although it sometimes causes sleepless nights, this outside pressure to assist the minister in furthering the environmental agenda within government, because there are many other ministers who have an agenda to present to the cabinet, to the caucus and to the Legislature. I believe the resurrection of the energy and environment committee would have a positive effect of once again placing the environment high on the agenda instead of where it is at the present time.

There is a need for this because when we see project X reappear, for instance—and I remember all the stories and the newscasts and the questions from this side of the House about project X. Project X has in effect been implemented by the government of Ontario, by an NDP government. It reminds me that only the Republicans could end a war against the communists. It appears that only an NDP government could push through something which would elbow aside in many ways the Environmental Assessment Act and environmental approvals in favour of other ministries which have an agenda to get the economy going again.

I'm very strongly supportive of the reimplementation, of the resurrection of this particular committee. I think there are members of all parties who would like to serve on that committee, who have something positive to contribute, something positive to say. I'm glad to put together within that committee the energy and the environment issues, because there are people who have served in that capacity as Environment minister or Energy minister who would recognize there's a strong relationship between the two.

I want to commend the member for Algoma-Manitoulin for bringing this resolution forward and I commend it to all members of the House for support.

**The Acting Speaker:** The honourable member for Algoma-Manitoulin has two minutes to conclude.

**Mr Brown:** I might first say that I appreciate the contribution members have made in debating this resolution. I want to pick up on something the member for Kitchener said. He talked about the duplication, about the fact that we have a committee of deputy ministers looking at this problem.

That is exactly what this resolution is about. I think this is a significant issue. I think this is an issue that the public

has to be involved in. I think it's an issue that legislators have to be involved in. I think it's something that cannot be done behind the closed doors of a bureaucracy and have much credibility in the public view. I think one of the things we must do is bring the public, the politicians and the policymakers closer together on this issue so that we can address it in a meaningful way.

The member for Kitchener also pointed out that this is an international effort, and I fully recognize that. There's not much impact we'll make all by ourselves, but we have to be able to argue from a position of moral strength that we are doing something about it and let the international community follow us, I would hope.

I thank the member for Halton Centre, who was Chair of the previous committee, and who was, I think, a driving force behind establishing the initial committee. I think her work is well recognized among the legislators here and I commend her for her comments, which were a little bit more to the point than mine at times, I guess.

I would also note that one of the things about this debate is the difference of opinion between the member for Lanark-Renfrew and the member for Peterborough. I don't think we should be in that debate. I think we should be talking about establishing the facts and then getting on with doing what is reasonable to do, after a committee of this Legislature has heard the experts, has understood the situation and can make rational judgements on the facts that are before it. I hope all members will support this resolution.

**The Acting Speaker:** The time for ballot item 8 has expired.

#### COMPOSTING

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville):** We will move on to consideration of ballot item 7.

Mr Gary Wilson has moved private member's resolution 9. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

#### ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

1211

The House divided on Mr Brown's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

**Ayes—33**

Arnott, Bradley, Brown, Caplan, Carter, Curling, Dadamo, Duignan, Ferguson, Frankford, Haeck, Harnick, Harrington, Hayes, Jordan, Lessard, MacKinnon, Mancini, Marchese, McClelland, O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Poole, Ruprecht, Sullivan, Tilson, Villeneuve, Waters, Wilson, G., Wilson, J., Winninger, Witmer.

**Nays—4**

Bisson, Cooper, Martin, Murdock, S.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville):** All matters relating to private members' public business having been completed, I do now leave the chair. The House will resume at 1:30 pm.

The House recessed at 1213.

## AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1330.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

## CANADIAN WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

**Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North):** On April 26 in Tampere, Finland, Canada's women's hockey team put forth an impressive performance at the women's world hockey championships and subsequently won the gold medal.

I'm sure that all members of this House, the people of Ontario, and indeed all Canadians are extremely proud of each and every member of our national women's hockey team. Their pure-gold accomplishment in Finland marked the second consecutive world title for women's hockey for Canada.

While the past 1990 team was dominated by players from English Canada, including 12 from Ontario, this time, of the 20-player roster there were seven players from Quebec and a francophone woman from Alberta. The team was as diverse and as unique as all the people from all across Canada.

The players' display of team unity and spirit of collaboration are a lesson for all Canadians. Upon reaching Finland for a week-long camp prior to the playoffs, any French-English cultural and language barriers that may have existed simply disappeared. The team united quickly as one group and worked as a truly fine example of what Canada is all about: unity and common effort.

As the member for Brampton North, it's my particular honour to inform this House and the people of the province that two of the players, Ms Heather Ginzler and Ms Sue Scherer, are Brampton residents. They were also members of the 1990 team which won gold in the Ottawa championships.

During the recent championships in Finland, Ms Ginzler and Ms Scherer played an important role. Both players contributed to the inspiring Canadian performance by scoring goals and making assists, and said that team unity was the major reason for the outstanding performance.

I know all members of this assembly join me in expressing gratitude and appreciation to members of the Canadian women's hockey team not only for their award-winning performance, but also for their fine example of Canadian unity and working together.

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale):** The North York Chamber of Commerce and the city of North York have recently made public their views on the government's proposed changes to the Ontario Labour Relations Act.

In an open letter to the Premier, the North York Chamber of Commerce stated:

"What Ontario needs is not reform to present legislation, but rather a boost in consumer confidence and provision of labour stability.... The reforms you are proposing will limit the opportunities and choices available to work-

ers since there will be fewer employers to provide jobs after they have assessed the damage resulting from the reforms....

"The business community in North York feels that no other single piece of legislation has ever been as damaging to the economy of this province as your proposed Labour Relations Act. As a result, we urge you to withdraw these amendments immediately."

In addition to the chamber's statement, the economic development department of the city of North York stated:

"The Ontario government's proposed amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act could potentially have far-reaching and damaging impacts on the ability of Ontario and the city of North York to attract new investment and to be highly competitive with other economic areas....

"At a time when Ontario and North York's economy is searching for a positive economic action to stimulate growth, any new changes in legislation that make Ontario less competitive will slow down the economic recovery and the creation of new jobs or investment in the province."

I urge the government to listen to the people of North York and withdraw these proposed amendments immediately.

## WINE TOUR

**Ms Margaret H. Harrington (Niagara Falls):** We all know Niagara is an exciting place to be. Now more than ever that is true. This past weekend was the wonderful weather and the Blossom Festival parade, an institution in our city. But there is a new and unique event which premiered this past weekend. It's called Intervin, a gala international wine festival. By buying a passport, visitors are entitled to visit international pavilions in places such as Beamsville, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Port Dalhousie and Niagara Falls—around the whole area—to elegantly sample the very finest of wines.

Let me tell you about Saturday evening. We started in the historic cellars of Brights Wines with champagne and fondue, followed by a bus ride to Table Rock at the brink of the falls to watch a fantastic display of fireworks over the falls.

Hundreds of award-winning wines from around the world are available to sample during these nine days of May. There are opportunities to talk with internationally renowned winemakers, exhibits throughout the picturesque region at the peak of blossom time, winery tours, bicycling and picnicking. Intervin, or "The Nine Days of May," continues this week from May 9 to May 17. It is an annual opportunity to sample the very best of Niagara. You don't have to go to California for a wine tour. Come and enjoy.

## POLICE SERVICES

**Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte):** I rise today on behalf of the Liberal Party to honour Police Services Week. Along with my members, I would like to commend the police forces around the province for the great work they do in carrying out their many duties. They keep us safe in our communities and have many other jobs.

We all know the role they play has greatly expanded. They have a lot greater responsibilities, bigger challenges, and we know that changes in lifestyles have made enforcement sometimes even more difficult. They take on other jobs. I think of the police forces in my area working with service clubs, going into different schools that are there, and also this past weekend working in such things as bicycle rodeos. Yet these police forces are working under budgets that have been slashed. I would encourage the government to re-examine its policies to make sure these police forces are properly funded.

Also, as I mentioned, I go back to some of the police forces in my own area, in Belleville and Trenton, and the OPP that service different communities. I am very proud of those forces and the job they do.

Especially in these present days when many criticisms are being levelled against police forces, we must all understand that it is a very difficult job and we must work with them in a common cause.

#### ORANGEVILLE CABOOSE

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** I wish to draw the attention of the House to an event of great importance for many Ontario tourists. This weekend the Orangeville tourism information caboose will be open, ready again to provide travellers with information not only on the Dufferin-Peel area, but for the whole province. The caboose has been in operation for 15 years and every year helps upwards of 10,000 travellers get the most out of all this great province has to offer in the summertime.

My riding of Dufferin-Peel is especially blessed with natural and historical attractions that appeal to many people. The travel counsellors in this area are Danielle Mink and Debbie Whitten, and they are always pleased to help anyone who is looking for something interesting and exciting to do in the beautiful Dufferin-Peel area.

The caboose will be open weekends until July 1 and then daily until September 1. I urge anyone with specific questions or just general curiosity to make use of this valuable resource that we all can enjoy. I hope to see all of you enjoying your Ontario summer in Dufferin-Peel.

#### CITY OF WINDSOR CLEANUP

**Mr Wayne Lessard (Windsor-Walkerville):** On May 7, as part of the province's Pitch-In campaign, people of all ages worked together to clean up the city of Windsor. This was the seventh year the city has participated in the pickup, the long-term results of which are being seen with less litter in Windsor's neighbourhoods on a year-round basis.

This effort was an example of an event that included all members of our community. It helped us realize that we all have a responsibility for the amount of waste we produce. It also proves that Windsor citizens take those kinds of responsibilities and commitment to the community quite seriously.

It's important for us to recognize those who helped make this day a success. This group included Merchant Paper, which supplied refuse bags; Windsor Sportsmen, which supplied hot dogs and soft drinks; Burger King,

which supplied orange drinks and meals, and the Essex-Windsor Waste Management Committee.

Of course, it's the volunteers who really made the day a success. People like Bill Lacasse from the city's public works department, the old midtown business improvement area, students from the Begley school and physically challenged students from the community living program at Walkerville high school.

I would like to personally thank all those who made the Pitch-In campaign such a success in Windsor. This is really the most appropriate place for me to do that, because for me to thank everyone individually would be next to impossible. It would be impossible because over 25,000 people participated. In fact, this turnout has earned the city of Windsor a place in the Guinness Book of World Records for the most volunteers in a single-day civic cleanup.

1340

#### PROTECTION OF IN-CARE RESIDENTS

**Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau):** There are suspicions of a coverup following investigations into the Grandview school that took place through the Ministry of Correctional Services over 15 years ago.

A key document written in 1976 by a corrections ministry investigator, which indeed triggered the closing of Grandview, was discovered in February 1992, yet it's being kept from the public and the victims. There is evidence of five unexplained deaths of residents of Grandview, deaths that have been alleged to have been caused by guards. Secrecy is a matter that makes this more serious, and it's bound to reinforce suspicion.

Not one charge has been laid, even though this report was uncovered in February. There are many questions arising from this report and its presentation: Why are there no charges being laid? Why did most records vanish? Why was it so very difficult to obtain this report? What individuals were involved in its presentation? To whom is it being distributed? I could go on and on.

Protective functions of the provincial government are being given as one reason for non-disclosure. I ask: Is this government protecting itself or the victims?

#### ROYAL WEEK

**Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South):** Royal Week 1992 celebrates the 40th anniversary of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen of Canada. Royal Week is a time during which Canadians celebrate our nation's heritage and life as a community under the crown. The varied programs and events which are being held throughout this week will serve to remind all of us of the many benefits—political, social and cultural—that we share in and that constitute our rich heritage as a constitutional monarchy.

As a member of the Commonwealth, Canada is heir to a tradition of cultural tolerance and understanding which has led to the development of close international ties with other countries around the world. This week all Canadians should reflect on the fact that they share a Queen with 49 other nations, all with different cultural and racial backgrounds,

and that the Queen of Canada is also the Queen of Jamaica and of Australia.

Royal Week festivities will culminate with the Queen's birthday parade, which will be held on Monday, May 18, Victoria Day. The parade promises to be a truly grand event, with participants representing a wide cross-section of Canadian society, including members of the Canadian armed forces, veterans' associations, Her Majesty's civil forces, first nations bands and multicultural groups.

I am proud to announce that the Ontario Progressive Conservative caucus is sponsoring the Governor General's Horse Guards regimental band, and I should also like to publicly thank you, Mr Speaker, for so graciously consenting to participate in the Queen's birthday parade. I know your presence will be greatly appreciated by all, as it will add significantly to the day's celebrations.

I invite all members of the House to join me in marking this, Her Majesty's ruby jubilee year as our Queen and sovereign. May she reign in health and happiness for many more years to come.

#### KIN CLUBS

**Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford):** On Monday in Tillsonburg, I took part in a special flag-raising celebrating 125 years of Canadian pride and unity. This event was part of the Proud to Be Canadian tour organized by the Association of Kin Clubs of Canada. The tour is one of the officially recognized projects for Canada's 125th birthday.

Kin Clubs represent the largest all-Canadian national service club. They are active in Oxford county; in fact, the current national Kinette president, Gail Malcolm, is from Ingersoll. Kinsmen and Kinettes across Canada have organized this tour in an effort to promote our awareness of the positive aspects of being Canadian, aspects which we often take for granted.

They especially want to foster a sense of heritage and pride in being Canadian in our children. The project will involve over two and a half million school children in 600 communities across the country in flag-signing and flag-raising ceremonies.

On January 1, two flags from the Peace Tower started from opposite coasts on a six-month trek across the country. They are visiting 250 communities and will meet in Thunder Bay on June 20. In other communities, designated flags are being signed and raised by school children. One flag from each province will be presented to the Prime Minister when the Peace Tower flags are returned to Ottawa on July 1.

In addition to Tillsonburg, I will be participating again on May 21 when the tour visits Victory Memorial School in Ingersoll.

These events represent an important opportunity for the children of Ontario to join with others across the country in a national celebration of the rights, privileges and freedoms that, as Canadians, we all enjoy.

I encourage all members to participate in and show their support for the Proud to Be Canadian tour as it makes its way across the province.

#### WITHDRAWAL OF BILL 18

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The first of two items: On Wednesday, May 13, the member for Halton Centre, Mrs Sullivan, introduced a bill entitled An Act to require the Recycling of Lead Acid Batteries. It has been brought to my attention that this bill is in unilingual format only, which is contrary to section 3, part II of the French Language Services Act, 1986.

I must advise all honourable members that this matter contravenes section 37(d) of our standing orders in that it is in improper form. I must therefore rule this bill out of order and it must be omitted from the order paper.

#### LEGISLATIVE PAGES

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The second matter is that during the past six weeks we have been served with great dedication from a group of young people who have brought a great energy to their task, and this is their last working day in our assembly. I would ask all members to pay them tribute for the fine work they have done over the six weeks.

#### MINISTER'S MARRIAGE

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: Under standing order 21, together with the privileges for all of us assembled here, I took some note that although the privileges here apply to us, I should get some outside help and counsel as to how to deal with this matter of privilege. It deals with standing order 16, about grave disorder in the House. Having consulted my leader, she sent me to two experts, who advised me on how to address this.

Edith Hurst, her mother, who is here from Fort William and with us in the audience, and Jessie Cook, her aunt from Ajax, who is with us also, in the gallery east, advised me that under a grave disorder—of course, daughter and niece respectively never were in grave disorder—it would certainly be unbecoming for all of us and a breach of privileges if we were unable to offer to the member for Hamilton Mountain, the Minister of Energy, congratulations on his about-to-come-up big event, his marriage.

I wish him well. I thought that if we were unable to do that it would cause grave disorder among all the members, and that your ruling on this matter might be worthwhile to take into consideration until all of us receive our invitations to the reception. That, too, might cause grave disorder, but if I might, to a fellow colleague, elected in 1977, who has been here longer than I, we just wish to extend him our best wishes. With the advice of Edith Hurst and Jessie Cook, my leader's aunt and mother, we think we have come to a conclusion that will allow us to proceed effectively with the business of the day.

I thank these women for their advice to me and also offer the advice they have given to my leader, which has carried her into such a great position of prestige. They have done a very successful job and they have helped me bring this issue to a successful conclusion as well.

**Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour):** On both the point of order and privilege, I think, Mr Speaker: I also

want to congratulate my colleague Brian Charlton, the MPP for Hamilton Mountain, and his bride-to-be, Chris Happel.

This coming Saturday I and many of my friends and others will be in Hamilton to celebrate their wedding. I want to say I've worked closely with both Brian and Chris—Brian for an awful lot of years and Chris was a graduate of the intern program here at Queen's Park. I'm proud to be able to stand and wish them both best wishes and wish that they'll have a happy future.

1350

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** To the point of privilege raised by the member for Bruce: I thought for a minute that he was going to suggest that grave disorder might be created by those very distinguished visitors who are seated in the gallery. While it may not be a point of privilege that's raised, at the same time I think he and the member for Hamilton East have most eloquently expressed the good wishes of all the members of the assembly to the member for Hamilton Mountain.

**Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions and acting Minister of Energy):** Just very briefly, I'd like to say thank you to those who took the time this afternoon to raise this matter. Although it has caused some nervous tension over the last few weeks, it is one I'm looking very much forward to this Saturday.

The member for Bruce raised the issue of grave disorder, and perhaps that speaks to the question of invitations, which he also raised. A filibuster this weekend may in fact lead to an inconclusive day, but we don't intend to allow that to happen.

Having said that, I very much appreciate the comments and I think my fiancée, Chris Happel, also appreciates the sentiments that were expressed today. I thank everybody very much. We're looking forward to a very long and happy marriage, so thank you all.

**Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David):** Mr Speaker, I have a question of personal privilege under the same order. I have to begin by saying that the news communicated today in respect of the member for Hamilton Mountain is by far the best news we've had from this government in many, many months.

#### ATTENDANCE OF MINISTERS

**Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David):** I have to be the bearer of bad tidings, particularly as there are visitors in the gallery and people watching television who are anxious to participate indirectly in question period. We were advised today that nine ministers will be absent from question period, two will be arriving late and two will be leaving early. That is, in total, more than half the cabinet of the province of Ontario.

This is not the first time it has happened. It is one in a series of occasions on which it has happened. It is without any doubt the worst record of attendance I've seen since 1985. The participants who watch this proceeding on television ought to know that the members of their government do not attend the House, even though some of them are in the city.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The member for St George-St David may recall that earlier his colleague the member for Mississauga West raised this very point with me. I in fact made a statement to the House the other day and I refer the member to that statement.

**Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs):** On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: In regard to the matter you have just dealt with, I want to say that I understand that during my absence the member who has just spoken pointed out that I had been absent from the House over a great period of time. I want to say that I, along with the Right Honourable Joe Clark and other ministers representing other provinces and territories, along with aboriginal leaders, have been involved in constitutional discussions. We are carrying out our responsibilities for the people of this province.

**Mr Scott:** I made no objection—

**The Speaker:** Would the member take his seat, please. The next item of business is statements by ministers.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

##### MORTGAGE BROKERS

**Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions):** We'll leave it to the opposition to be the bearer of bad tidings. I would like to bring some good tidings to the House.

I rise today to inform the House of changes to regulations under the Mortgage Brokers Act. I'm pleased to announce that these changes will significantly increase the level of consumer protection for people using the services of mortgage brokers in the province of Ontario. These changes will affect people who both borrow and invest through mortgage brokers.

The financial services sector has changed significantly over the past two decades since the Mortgage Brokers Act of 1971. Today's marketplace is much more competitive, consumers have many more choices and increasing numbers of people are looking for alternatives when trying to secure mortgages or investment opportunities.

Although the act has undergone some minor changes during the past two decades, it has simply not kept up with the times. The mortgage broker industry is aware of the complexity of today's financial services marketplace and it too is anxious for a regulatory system that responds to current needs.

The changes I am announcing today go a long way to resolving problems associated with mortgage brokers and mortgage syndications. They provide a larger measure of protection for people who use their services.

Mortgage syndications have been the largest source of investor losses in mortgage broker failures. Therefore, in addition to the significant changes I am introducing today, my ministry is also pursuing further options for fuller disclosure and regulatory controls dealing with mortgage syndications.

The new regulations place a greater responsibility on mortgage brokers. By making compulsory what many brokers do already, we are providing a higher level of

consumer protection on a mandatory basis. But like any investments, I caution that all investments carry a degree of risk. Mortgage investments cannot be guaranteed by a mortgage broker or anyone else.

As I already indicated, these changes will affect both investors and borrowers. Let me deal first with investors. Our changes provide for a new 48-hour period where information about the property, the borrower and the broker's fees must be provided before any agreement can be signed, thus enabling a prospective investor to get independent advice.

Once a mortgage is paid off, brokers will be required to pay the investor in full. Under the new regulations the funds cannot be rolled over without the consent of the investor.

For prospective borrowers the regulations permit up to a 72-hour cooling-off period. A statement detailing all charges and fees borrowers can expect to pay will have to be provided to the borrower.

Brokers will not be allowed to take advance fees or deposits from a borrower before an investor is found. These regulations will apply to mortgages of \$200,000 or less, as compared to the current \$40,000 limit.

In addition, our changes prohibit mortgage brokers from issuing false or misleading advertising about mortgages. Full disclosure about the quality and availability of mortgages, legal procedures and costs or consequences of mortgage transactions will now be mandatory.

Brokers who violate these regulations may lose their registration to operate in Ontario.

It is my ministry's mandate to help protect consumers. Both borrowers and investors require more information than they are entitled to under the current Mortgage Brokers Act so that investments can be made prudently and any associated risks are clear. I believe we have achieved this through our changes. These changes will afford an unprecedented level of consumer information and protection for the clients of mortgage brokers.

My ministry will continue to work with the industry to ensure consumers receive the highest degree of protection in the current financial marketplace as it evolves. We will monitor the effectiveness of the measures closely. We are committed to enforcing and, if necessary, strengthening the rules that enhance the integrity of Ontario's financial services marketplace.

1400

## RESPONSES

### MORTGAGE BROKERS

**Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South):** I'm pleased to respond to the statement made this afternoon by the Minister of Financial Institutions and I want to thank him for the advance notice he gave our office in regard to his statement.

In the short time I have been the official opposition critic for Financial Institutions, most of my time has been used dealing with individuals across this province who have brought to my attention concerns regarding mortgage brokers, specifically mortgage brokers who do not adhere to the law and who use whatever means possible, it appears,

to try to take advantage of consumers who are unaware of their rights or who, in one way or another, manipulate the law.

I want to make it very clear that this is a minority of the mortgage brokers. The vast majority of the people in the industry want to have a professional and well-run industry and want to do the best they can for the people they are serving.

While I agree with the minister that all investments carry a degree of risk, as he said in his statement, and therefore people must be careful what they do with their money, I should say to the minister at this time that if we're going to get into this type of extensive monitoring, legislation, regulations, then it's going to be incumbent upon the government to make it very clear that if in fact it is because of regulatory mismanagement within the government and if people lose money because of this regulatory mismanagement, then it's going to be the responsibility of the government to pay the people who have lost their money. I want to make that very clear.

The other point I want to make clear is that I believe the matter should be referred to a legislative committee for public hearings. I believe there are a number of important things that people in the general public, on both sides of the issue, should tell members of the Legislature in an organized and cohesive way.

There are a couple of other points I would like to mention to the minister.

There is no mention in his statement this afternoon about improved education and training in the mortgage brokering industry even though the industry itself has called for these improvements. These improvements are overdue.

There has been no mention by the minister of what he intends to do about those individuals, many senior citizens, who have already seen their money evaporate because of the misdeeds of some mortgage brokers. What are you going to do for them, Mr Minister?

The minister has mentioned the areas where there will be new amendments, but he has not mentioned how the government will in fact monitor and regulate these new amendments. Is the ministry going to ask for stronger staff? Is the ministry going to ask for more staff? Is the ministry going to ask for more resources to in fact regulate and manage these new amendments, or is the minister just going to pass regulations so that the very few in the industry who do not want to follow these regulations will have more laws to circumvent?

There's no mention in the minister's statement of the area of financial planning. As the minister knows, now anyone can call himself a financial planner. This is another grossly unregulated sector of the financial community, and we need some protection for the consumers in this area.

I look forward to the public hearings that are necessary in this regard, I look forward to further cooperating with the minister, and I look forward to strengthening the law to protect the ordinary Ontario citizens who are entrusting their long-saved and hard-earned funds into the hands of people who they hope are properly trained and properly regulated and can do the job they promised.

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** In the few seconds left, I would like to indicate that I was hopeful there would have been a further announcement dealing with other institutions that have in fact been responsible for people losing thousands of their own dollars.

You will recall, Mr Speaker, when you were in the House previously, the Re-Mor/Astra situation. We've had Falloncrest recently in the Niagara Peninsula. A number of people have lost their life savings as a result of misadventures on the part of those who have been involved in these financial institutions. I would hope that while the minister is considering these changes, indeed there would be changes to the act to strengthen the security those people who wish to invest might have. I hope to see that in the near future from this minister.

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** The consumer and the investor around this province, as you've indicated, have been waiting a long time for this type of amendments to be brought forward, and I do congratulate you on them. I believe it was 1975 when we had the last major change in the Mortgage Brokers Act, although these of course are amendments to the regulations to that legislation.

It has probably taken comments from the Provincial Auditor, criticism towards the Ministry of Financial Institutions, to bring forward this legislation. I don't believe the minister has adequately responded to many of the challenges put forward by the Provincial Auditor. There's no question that there is need for better disclosure, there is need to educate the public and the consumer on very complicated mortgage and consumer matters. Contracts are required to be signed with a broker. Commercial activities are becoming more and more difficult to understand, and certainly these regulations are long needed.

The major criticism I have of this specific proposal being put forward by the minister is that you can have all the regulations in the world to deal with this matter, but until you put forward legislation that can better enforce these regulations then they're meaningless, they don't mean boo. So Mr Speaker, I'd hope the minister would create a bill that would tell the public exactly how these matters can be properly enforced, and until that takes place these proposals are probably rather meaningless.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** It's interesting that this announcement came today on the heels of the press conference held by Mr Crombie on the Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront. It's interesting because we're talking about the Mortgage Brokers Act etc, and today with the private development cooperative housing taking place it's very important that proper mortgage money is available and we can build this cooperative housing.

What is interesting, though, is that the Minister of the Environment didn't alert this House to the royal commission. Mr Crombie held a press conference that I understand the minister attended. They had quite an interesting discussion and debate, yet not a word was spoken in this House about it, which is very discouraging. All the right words were used in the press conference regarding this and—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order. Clerk, stop the clock for a minute. The member should be keeping his remarks to the statement made and not some other statement—only the one made today.

**Mr Stockwell:** I'm doing my best. I'm just pointing out how ironic it is that we should have this type of announcement today and the press conference that took place earlier this morning, both dealing with development, mortgage money etc. I can understand why this minister didn't want to make the announcement in the House today, because they talked about development of the waterfront and her government is the biggest developer in Etobicoke on the waterfront: The Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital grounds and the Humber College property are being developed by this provincial government, and they're talking about the private sector building on the waterfront from the greater Toronto area at one end—

**The Speaker:** Order. I appreciate the member's interest and enthusiasm about Toronto's waterfront, but it is not the subject of the statement by the Minister of Financial Institutions.

**Mr Stockwell:** I agree, Mr Speaker. I'm certain that on the development of the waterfront there are tremendous numbers of mortgage brokers involved in this development. I know for a fact that there are developments taking place today on the waterfront that do involve mortgage brokers who will be affected by this announcement that was made today. What I'd like to point out to you is that it's not surprising that the Minister of the Environment chose not to come to this House, because there's a development taking place that she would like—

**The Speaker:** Order. The statement which is being discussed now is a statement made by the Minister of Financial Institutions, not the Minister of the Environment.

**Mr Stockwell:** In closing, I would like to say that it would have been nice to have this statement in the House today. As it's not, it's very difficult for members of the opposition to keep abreast of what the province is doing, and it's equally difficult for the constituents in Etobicoke-Lakeshore to have input to this government when their ministers and representatives cower away from this House and don't make announcements that affect their constituents and the people of Etobicoke.

**The Speaker:** Would the member take his seat.

#### VISITOR

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Before continuing, I would invite all members to welcome to our House this afternoon the member of Parliament for the Ontario riding of Simcoe North, the Honourable Doug Lewis, who is also the Solicitor General of Canada. Please welcome him.

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** Can we ask if that Solicitor General would allow Sunday shopping? This Solicitor General won't.

**The Speaker:** I would not presume to answer on behalf of the federal Solicitor General, and I'm not sure that he would want to participate in question period. But we are

about to begin question period: the Leader of the Opposition.

1410

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### RETAIL STORE HOURS

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is indeed for the Ontario Solicitor General. Yesterday, the town of Wallaceburg went before the Ontario Municipal Board to get its Sunday shopping bylaw approved. The Ontario Municipal Board adjourned the hearing. The city of Sarnia has also had its hearing postponed. The OMB refuses to deal with this matter because the law is unworkable, and the government is further adding to the confusion by creating uncertainty with its on-again, off-again policy.

The mayor of Wallaceburg wrote to the Premier today and said: "We have spent days preparing our case and waiting patiently for our hearing, only to be caught up in the bureaucracy of Bill 115, a law which does not work. The time to act is now. How many of our businesses have to go under before you act?"

My question for the Solicitor General is the same question as the mayor has asked: How many businesses have to go under before you act? How long will this confusion have to continue?

**Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General):** Certainly no businesses need go under as a result of the legislation we have placed with respect to the Retail Business Holidays Act. What was put in place was a clarification, a streamlining and a more expeditious process than the one that was left by our predecessors, the Liberal Party of Ontario.

**Mrs McLeod:** That particular response doesn't even merit comment on my part.

I would just ask the Solicitor General to hear the reality and to listen to people like the mayor of Sarnia and to the people of Wallaceburg. Yesterday, the Solicitor General talked about consultation and assured us that the only reason for delay in this government bringing in changes to its Sunday shopping legislation was that it wanted to take time for consultation. We know very well that the consultation they're waiting for is consultation with the governing council of the New Democratic Party.

Seventy per cent of the people in Wallaceburg support Sunday shopping. If this government is really prepared to consult and then to act, why will it not respond to the wishes of 70% of the people in Wallaceburg who want to be able to shop on Sunday? Why will it not repeal its legislation and introduce legislation which gives the people of Wallaceburg and the people of Sarnia and the people of other communities the right to choose whether they want to shop on Sunday?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** Our amendments are new and they appear in fact to be working. As I've indicated, the government continues to monitor this particular issue. If I have anything to add, I will be pleased to bring it forward to the House, as I indicated yesterday, rather exhaustively I believe.

**Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North):** Why don't we try this approach for the Solicitor General, then?

This is the first long weekend of the summer, Mr Solicitor General. A lot of retailers and communities are afraid they won't survive the recession and cross-border shopping without Sunday shopping. But the Solicitor General has said many times that the law is the law, no matter how many businesses go under because of it, and that the police will enforce it.

It was on September 19, 1989, when he was being led away by the police, arrested during an illegal blockade of the Temagami forest, that Bob Rae justified breaking the law by saying, "You have to do what you have to do."

What will the Solicitor General do if shopkeepers across the province emulate the Premier and say they'll do what they have to do to survive and open for business this holiday weekend?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** As I recall events, those major retailers who had offered the suggestion that they were going to open last Sunday, after some rather sage reflection, I assume, came to a proper corporate decision that they would continue to be law-abiding businesses and of their own volition decided not to follow that course of action. After understanding that, I think it renders the question rather academic.

### PLANT CLOSURES

**Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt):** My question is to the Treasurer, and it has to do with jobs. As I'm sure you're aware, perhaps one of the most discouraging reports in the last two years was the April report on plant closures. As you know, Treasurer, we're all expecting and hoping for good economic news to come shortly. However, we see that in the month of April there were 15 plants closed in Ontario, one every two days. We see that in the first four months of 1992, 52 plants have closed. Last year in the same period of time, as you will know, there were 39 plants closed. So rather than good economic news coming, we're seeing more and more bad news. In fact, so far in the year to date, we have 7,500 workers permanently laid off with these 52 plants closings.

What are we to tell those 7,500 workers in terms of what the government has been doing to work with those workers and the owners of those businesses, those 52 plants? Will you assure the House you have sat down with each of those organizations, talked to them about their plans to close and done everything possible to work with the groups to ensure they stayed open? Can you assure the House you did that in those 52 different plant closures?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** It's no secret and it is truly distressing the amount of unemployment in Ontario and elsewhere in this country. The closures to which the member refers are indeed troublesome. We've been told for some time now that—

Interjections.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I wish the Liberals would take this question seriously, because we do regard it as a serious matter, and I wish the opposition would too. The budget which was brought down on April 30 included a number

of measures to support and create a very significant number of jobs this year and even more next year. But as to the government snapping its fingers and resolving the problems of plant closures, that's simply not the case.

I really do regard it as a serious question. All I can assure the member opposite is that we will work as closely as is possible. Many of these decisions, I'm sure you know, are made unilaterally in the private sector. We're ready and available to help, and the Ministry of Labour has a process set up when this occurs—

**The Speaker:** Would the minister conclude his response.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** —and that will be continued.

**Mr Phillips:** You didn't respond to my question in your answer, Treasurer; I hope you might in the supplementary. I asked you if you would assure the House that in all 52 cases you, the government, worked with the owners and the workers to see if there wasn't some way to prevent the closure.

For example, Treasurer, you know already—it's already been announced—that in May there are going to be 13 more plants closing in Ontario. You know there's going to be a plant closing in Perth, Kitchener, Hamilton, Braeside, Barrie and Brantford. You've got two pages of plants that will be closing. You know they're going to happen.

My question was this: Will you assure the House that in each of those cases, the government has sat down with the owners and with the workers to see if there wasn't some way to prevent the closing? They've announced they're going to close; 52 of them announced they were going to close. My question was: Will you assure the House that you have sat down in each of those cases and seen if there wasn't some way to prevent the closing?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** No, I have not sat down in all 52 cases to try to talk the private sector out of closing a plant. I don't know what the member opposite expects. Perhaps when he was in government he had a process by which he went in and beat up people and told them they couldn't close their plant. That's simply not the way the system the works.

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** We are in imminent danger of losing an estimated 4,500 jobs. These are additional jobs to the ones we've already lost. I'm referring, of course, to the very real danger that the Fort Erie Race Track will close, causing 2,000 jobs to be lost directly and another 2,500 jobs being placed in jeopardy.

In view of the fact that the Fort Erie Race Track brings in millions of tourist dollars to the province, and in view of the fact that many of the individuals who are employed in this industry are individuals who might have a very difficult time obtaining other gainful employment, and in view of the fact that the Niagara region has already lost or is about to lose thousands of other jobs, would the minister assure the House that the government of Ontario will not allow the Fort Erie Race Track to close and that the government will not implement any new policies or measures which would be designed to be detrimental to the horse

racing industry in general and to the Fort Erie Race Track directly?

1420

**Hon Floyd Laughren:** I thank the member for St Catharines for the very astute question. The member for St Catharines will know, because I believe he attended a meeting along with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, the Minister of Revenue and the chief government whip very recently to deal with the whole problem of the Fort Erie raceway, and it's my understanding as well, that a business plan is being prepared for I believe June 4 and that the government will monitor that and work with them very closely. I can assure the member for St Catharines that we would never design programs or design policies to do anything whatsoever detrimental to the horse racing industry.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** My question is to the Minister of Labour. The Minister of Labour for Manitoba introduced on Tuesday amendments to the Labour Relations Act. This included a provision to extend the use of secret ballots. These amendments were the result of a joint labour-management committee, supported by both management and labour, and are seen as very positive for the investment climate in Manitoba. Minister, why are you proceeding in exactly the opposite direction at a time when Ontario businesses are leaving this province?

**Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour):** I have some difficulty with the question from the leader of the third party. I'm not sure what he means: better than 300 meetings; 210 of which were with the business community, or three times around with the various coalitions. Meeting with these people and discussing this potential legislation seems to me to be a real effort to communicate with people in our community. The only thing is that we also communicated with workers while we were at it and with individual groups—poverty groups, women's groups—in this province. We have gone through a consultation process unlike any other that's been done in this government.

**Mr Harris:** Manitoba as well recently passed legislation to deal with the financial crisis at its Workers' Compensation Board. In addition, they eliminated occupational stress compensation except in those cases involving a traumatic workplace event. Minister, we have an unfunded liability in Ontario of \$10.9 billion quickly moving towards \$12 billion. Will you take a page from Manitoba's book not only on the labour legislation but also in dealing with the financial crisis facing the Workers' Compensation Board in this province?

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** As I recall, the first steps to try and deal with that started with your government and the deficit started to rise at that particular time. The board is currently looking at the unfunded liability problem.

On the other part of that question, I would point out that we don't have a policy yet on stress in Ontario. The board has decided it's worth taking a look at, and that's what we're in the process of doing.

**Mr Harris:** The last time I checked, Manitoba was in the same Canada that Ontario is in, governed by the same federal government and the same policies that Ontario faces. Gary Filmon has managed to bring in five consecutive budgets without any major tax increases. In Manitoba they have truly consulted with business and with labour in reforming their labour relations. They have taken steps to control costs at WCB. Minister, that is why businesses are looking to locate in Manitoba. That is why Apotex recently invested \$50 million in a research facility in Winnipeg instead of in Ontario.

Minister, given your relationship with the business community on the labour relations changes, given the difference in WCB, given the difference in taxation and in the attitude towards business, can you give me one reason why a business, a company wanting to invest in Canada, would want to come to Ontario instead of Manitoba? One reason.

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** I'm sure the leader of the third party realizes that in spite of the difficult economic times we're getting more investment in Ontario than all the other provinces combined. I'm sure also that the leader of the third party is not telling this House—at least I hope he's not telling this House—that labour adjustment and labour fairness can't go hand in hand with economic progress. Finally, I live in Ontario, not in Manitoba.

**Mr Harris:** I'm telling you that if you followed Manitoba's lead it could happen here in Ontario as well and we could have the jobs here in Ontario that we're not getting.

#### SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** In the absence of the Minister of Community and Social Services, my second question is to the Treasurer. I was in his community yesterday; I was visiting his constituents in the Sudbury region. Many of them were talking to me about their concerns with the growing cost of welfare.

I'd like to read from the Barrie Examiner about John Smith: "John Smith supports his wife and three small children with a \$39,300 annual income and a \$164 monthly welfare cheque. Although Smith is fully employed, Ontario's welfare system says he's eligible for a top-up."

Mr Deputy Premier and Mr Treasurer responsible for paying these bills, something is wrong with a system that tops up the income of a family making \$40,000 in a county where the average combined family income is under \$30,000. Treasurer, for the benefit of families trying to plan for the future, could you tell them if it is your intention to top up all families in the province of Ontario that make less than \$40,000 a year?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** Of course I would want to look at the details of the case the leader of the third party is bringing forward. I remind him, however, that over the years a lot of suggestions have been made by a lot of people in this province that one of the ways to encourage and provide an incentive for social assistance recipients to get into the workforce is not to take away every single penny they earn. That is an important incentive and I think a socially justifiable one. I also say to the leader of the

third party that I will be quite prepared to take a look at the example he has given us today, but overall I think the leader of the third party would not want to fall into the Diane Francis trap of using numbers that are incorrect.

**Mr Harris:** You can analyse the data that are being used right now today in the county and how it is administering your program. I am the first to support any initiative that puts people back into the workforce, but I seriously question if we are helping those who truly need help.

A Simcoe county social services administrator has calculated that a family with six children making \$65,000 a year is eligible for \$534 per month in welfare top-ups. According to this and by my calculation, if the MPP for York Centre, right here in this Legislature today, did not have any outside income, he would be eligible for welfare assistance in Simcoe county.

Treasurer, how can we afford a system that provides welfare assistance in top-ups to those who are employed and who have never been on welfare before in their life, including an MPP of this Legislature?

1430

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I can't believe that a member of the Legislature earning a salary in the neighbourhood of \$55,000—\$46,000—would be eligible for social assistance.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order. Treasurer?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I ask the leader of the third party to cast his mind back about a week or so when the Minister of Community and Social Services stood in her place in this House and announced a package of changes to social assistance, not meant to make life more difficult for the most vulnerable in our society but designed to save several hundred millions of dollars this year, and the ongoing review of how to deliver social assistance most efficiently, in a most streamlined fashion while at the same time—I don't think the leader of the third party is implying this and I don't mean to say he is—protecting the most vulnerable and the children who are on social assistance. I think it's important that we contain the costs of social assistance in order that the people who need it most will get the assistance they need.

**Mr Harris:** That's exactly my point, Mr Treasurer. The minister said she was going to be giving us details in August, none of them retroactive, and we don't know what those are. I am pointing out to you today the plans that have been brought in by your government.

My colleague the member for Simcoe West is receiving phone calls in his office from people who are making \$40,000 a year, who have never been unemployed or on welfare and who want to know how they receive their welfare top-up. We are already spending \$6.2 billion on social assistance. We have a \$10-billion deficit. We have many people needing shelter and food banks and many who are unemployed, who do need more help, as the Treasurer and I both know.

Don't you agree with me that there is something wrong when at \$53,000 a year you're rich and famous in this province, you're rich enough to pay a surtax to support

your government's spending habits, but you're also eligible for welfare? Isn't there something wrong when \$53,000 a year is a surtaxable income and also eligible for welfare?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I have no idea where the leader of the third party is getting his information or who is doing his research for him. All I can say is that from what I gather from what he has just said, I think it's a lot of nonsense.

#### ONTARIO STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is to the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Earlier this week the minister indicated that applications for the Ontario student assistance fund had increased from 155,000 last year to 190,000 this year. That's an increase of 35,000 applicants. The minister went on to say that the government would support all those students. How does he intend to provide funding for an additional 35,000 applicants when the funding for the Ontario student assistance plan has been cut by \$10 million? Are you going to give cash-strapped students less money than they are currently receiving?

**Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Colleges and Universities):** I understand the difficulty some people have in comprehending the nature of the saving internal to the Ontario student assistance plan that we have announced, but I want everybody to remember that the Ontario student assistance plan remains an open-ended plan and that all those students who fit all the eligibility criteria will be supported this year, as they were last year, as they were the year before, even though the numbers keep on growing.

We globally project some kind of budget that we think will attach to the numbers we expect, but as the numbers come in they all get their support. What we did do was say, for example, that in terms of the eligibility criteria students who managed to find a job this summer and who work this summer would be asked to pay \$10 more than the \$70 they now pay out of each week they work. Now they would pay \$80 out of each week they work. They would be required in the plan to contribute that much to the cost of their education. By extending that by \$10—if you worked all summer that would work out to about three extra dollars per week all across the year—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the minister conclude his response, please.

**Hon Mr Allen:** —we save \$8 million of that \$10 million in the plan. But we don't limit the global contribution or the numbers who apply.

**Mrs McLeod:** However the minister applies it, in order to save \$10 million, fewer students are going to be receiving less money. There is no other way to cut that particular cake.

Earlier, the very same minister stated that every student would be guaranteed a place in a college program. I assume he meant every student who was applying. By March 1, 1991, colleges had received 15,370 applications. By the same time in 1992 they had received 20,043 appli-

cations. This is an increase of 25%. The minister is well aware that at the same time, his government has given historically low transfer payments to colleges and universities of 1%, and colleges are telling us that it's simply not true that every student will find a position in an Ontario college. There won't be space for everyone.

This minister continues to give false assurances to students across this province. I would wonder if the reason the minister can speak with such confidence that they will be able to provide funding for 35,000 additional students is because they know there will be fewer students in our colleges and universities this fall, not more students.

I would ask the minister how he can guarantee that every student will get a space. How can the minister explain how colleges and universities can take more students with less money?

**Hon Mr Allen:** Just to finish up the previous one, it's certainly quite possible for students who have a slightly reduced eligibility on the grant side to make it up on the loan side. Those dollars will help other students, who wouldn't have got it before, to get student assistance.

With respect to the enrolment question, I think the Leader of the Opposition appears not to understand that there is no limit to the number of colleges or programs you can apply to on the part of individual students. In a normal year, for every four applicants only one normally finds his place as a real enrollee at the end of the day. In terms of individual programs, there are closed enrolment programs that, maybe for 40 students in a single institution, will have 800 applicants, and in the course of the next months all of that works itself out.

I have not ever said I would guarantee every student a place in the system. What I said is that I think that at the end of the day there will be a place in some program in some college, in some university, for all those who want to get there. I'm sure those who run the colleges and the universities will manage to see that happens at the end of the day.

#### TRANSPORTATION OF WASTE

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** My question is to the Minister of the Environment. Madam Minister, you've known full well for the past year or so that there are some half-million to a million tonnes of Metropolitan Toronto waste being transported across the border to the United States. It's being transported by private haulers. You've known this and your ministry's known this. In fact, yesterday they admitted this.

My question to you is very straightforward, Madam Minister: Why is it that regional governments such as Metro, Durham, York and Peel cannot transport their garbage from one region to the next but it's okay for private haulers to take Metro garbage to the United States, where it's either landfilled or incinerated and blown back across the border into Canada?

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area):** It is the member's characterization of this situation being all right. Let me assure him and the House that I

don't think it's all right, but that is certainly the legal situation at the present time.

What this government has done is to indicate that within the GTA we will develop a comprehensive system of waste management which will involve giving the regional governments what they have wanted for some time: the right to deal with the flow of waste within their borders.

In consultation with my colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs we have out for consultation at this very moment a discussion paper, as part of the waste reduction office's initiatives papers, that raises ways in which upper-tier municipalities can be given just that kind of power and way of taking action. I can assure the member that once that consultation is completed there will be amendments to the legislation in the House that will do just what he's suggesting.

1440

**Mr Stockwell:** This minister knows exactly how to stop this. She just chooses not to. I'll tell you why she chooses not to: simply because that landfill is going to the United States and not using up precious space in Ontario. You don't want the space used up because your garbage gap will be that much closer and your incompetence will be proven beyond a shadow of a doubt.

The minister knows how to resolve the problem. It's very simple. As part of the certificate of approval for private haulers, you just insist that where they pick up they must dump within the same region. You know you can do that. You have the legal right to do that. You could do that tomorrow. You don't need any committees etc to study the issue.

You knew this in opposition. You know this in government. You can resolve the problem. Why have you got one rule for municipalities and a completely different rule for the private haulers? Don't you find this slightly hypocritical?

**Hon Mrs Grier:** Let me respond to the first supposition in the member's question. First of all, there has always been one way of dealing with private waste and another way of dealing with municipal waste. What we are trying to do is make sure that does not continue to happen any longer because we think there has to be an integrated system, which is precisely the reason we are dealing with changes to legislation that would give municipalities the right to control growth.

Contrary to the suggestion the member is making, we do not intend to arbitrarily move in and make that—

Interjections.

**Hon Mrs Grier:** What I was attempting to say was, contrary to the suggestion of the honourable member that we move in and arbitrarily change the certificates of approval, we are consulting with the private sector about the issue of flow control. Having done that, we will then change the legislation.

Let me also assure the honourable member that, contrary to what he said in the preface to his question, our calculations of the amount of capacity available in sites and the kinds of calculations we have done in dealing with the short-term problems of the GTA do not take into account continuing export, because, in addition to dealing

with the issue in Ontario, I have met with representatives of New York state and of the state of Indiana and they don't want Metro's garbage any more than anybody else does.

#### HUNTING AND FISHING IN ALGONQUIN PARK

**Mr Daniel Waters (Muskoka-Georgian Bay):** My question is for the Minister of Natural Resources and minister responsible for native affairs. First, I'd like to congratulate the minister on his very important work this past week at the constitutional conference. On a bit lighter note that isn't—

Interjection.

**Mr Waters:** It is of great importance to a lot of us here. I wish to also express my support for the minister's home-town team, the Soo Greyhounds, in their pursuit of the Memorial Cup.

My question is about Algonquin Park and the interim agreement on hunting with the people of Golden Lake. If memory serves me right, there was an agreed-upon season for hunting and that time has now lapsed. My question to the minister would be therefore, could he give us an update on how the hunting went this winter in Algonquin Park?

**Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs):** I appreciate the comments of my colleague. This is an important question. We now have the report of the coordinating committee on the interim agreement on hunting for the Algonquins of Golden Lake. That committee was made up of three non-native people—Ernie Martelle from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Bill Calvert from the ad hoc committee on Algonquin Park and Rick Amsbury from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters—and three members of the Algonquins of Golden Lake.

The coordinating committee has published the statistics on the hunt for 1991-92. The results of the hunt clearly show that both the province and the Algonquins are committed to conservation of wildlife and preservation of the values of Algonquin Park. These are the figures. The agreement, as you know, allowed for the harvesting of 175 deer and 100 moose. The Algonquins, according to the coordinating committee, took 34 deer and 47 moose.

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I would ask you to stop the clock because this is outrageous. Asking for an update and having the minister read from a ministerial document is not part of question period.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** To the member for Mississauga West, the standing orders prescribe that question period can be participated in by members of all three parties. Backbenchers have the right to ask questions and ministers may respond if they wish.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** The member for Yorkview, come to order. It is not assisting.

Ministers may respond if they wish and there is no rule that prevents anyone from reading an answer from a piece of paper.

**Hon Mr Wildman:** I was not reading a release; I was consulting the figures. I'm sorry, but I don't have them off the top of my head.

The figures are that in the total claim area, 13,599 deer were harvested. Of those, 34 were taken by Algonquins, or 0.25%. In the total claim area, 410 moose were taken, of which 47 were taken by Algonquins, or 12%. I think this indicates that the Algonquins and the Ministry of Natural Resources have taken a very responsible approach to the whole question of the moose and deer hunt in the region.

**Mr Waters:** I wish to congratulate the minister and the Algonquins on their efforts.

Over the last two weekends, the minister's parliamentary assistant, Mr Wood, and I have been travelling through the north dealing with moose hunting and the tourism industry, and one of the questions that kept coming up was moose hunting by natives. I would ask the minister, where do we go from here?

**Hon Mr Wildman:** As the member knows, the interim hunting agreement was a preliminary to the negotiation of the land claim.

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Section 32 of the standing orders states that where the answer is going to be a lengthy one, the minister is to make that a written submission. I submit to you that this is an abuse of the rules and an abuse of question period.

**The Speaker:** To the member for York Centre, he certainly is right that any minister may wish to submit details to the table, and on occasion you will recall the Speaker has pointed that out to ministers. I keep a close eye on the clock and every person gets approximately the same amount of time to ask a question or respond to one.

1450

**Hon Mr Wildman:** I'd be happy to table information if the members wish me to do that. I just want to point out that as we approach the summer camping season, this is a rather important issue.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Wildman:** What is it with you guys? I would point out, Mr Speaker, that one of the reasons this answer has been lengthy is because of the interruptions from the other side.

The interim hunting agreement has been completed. Any renewal will be subject to negotiation. We are currently still attempting to finalize the negotiation of an interim fishing agreement. We will approach these matters seriously to protect park values and to ensure the conservation of the fish and game stocks in the region.

#### TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mr Charles Beer (York North):** My question is to the Minister of Education and concerns his statement in this House yesterday regarding the Carleton strike.

Clearly today the paramount concern that all of us must have is for the students and their academic year. The minister yesterday stated that "the successful completion

of the students' academic year" is critical now and that we must focus on that, because this is an academic year in which, as the Education Relations Commission said on Monday, that year was in jeopardy. It is a year where there are fewer instructional days left than days that were taken out of the students' academic year because of the strike. You stated in the House yesterday that over the course of the next couple of days, modifications would be made to the school year to ensure what you term the "successful completion" of the year.

You're also aware, I am sure, that a senior official of the Carleton board has stated that neither the school day nor the school year will be extended. Minister, will you tell the House, but particularly the students and parents in Carleton, exactly and precisely how you plan to modify the students' academic year under these circumstances?

**Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education):** First of all, let me say that I'm happy to see the member has come down to his normal state of control and has left the agitation he was expressing yesterday.

Let me say seriously on the issue that he raises, which is of course a very serious issue, that I will be meeting later this afternoon with my officials to get an update on the discussions that have been going on and to see what plans are coming forward from the school board with respect to the modification to the school year.

I want to say very clearly that I will not take it for granted that what the member has said is what will happen in terms of what my position will be. I will make a determination, obviously, on the basis of the advice that will come forward. If need be, we will take action to direct that something different be done, which may include an extension of the school days from here until the end of the school year. As I say, I'm not in a position now to provide a detailed answer to the member, but obviously I would be pleased to make sure that he and other members who are interested receive detailed information as that is developed.

**Mr Beer:** Let me just say at the outset that I make absolutely no apology whatsoever for the tone and the content of my comments yesterday, and I think the minister would do very well to look at the comments that appeared in the Ottawa Citizen. That so-called settlement did nothing for students, for parents or for teachers. There is shock and alarm in that community today at what is going on.

Minister, with regard to this specific issue, yesterday in the draft bill that you were going to present to this House, clearly in what were subsections 5(1) and 5(2), you recognized that you did not have any authority by which to ensure that the school day, the instructional time, could be altered. You were prepared yesterday to bring this legislation to the House and to make sure you had the power so that students who are at the OAC level or students with special needs would be able to get the instructional time they require.

Minister, my question is very simple, and it is the same question. Given all of these facts—that you have not introduced any legislation, that you have given us no clear sign what it is you either intend to do or can do—I ask you

again: What specific steps are you going to take to ensure the completion of the students' academic year, and not just the completion but the successful completion, which is going to mean there's a need for more instructional time. What action are you going to take?

**Hon Mr Silipo:** Let me just say very clearly that I agree with the member opposite that there is a need for more instructional time, period. I agree with that. There is no quibbling on that. I was not asking him to apologize for his state of agitation yesterday. I was referring to the fact that he would know quite well that what I was doing and what I've been doing in this process is in fact to do exactly what his government did in previous situations, most recently in 1985 in the Wellington county strike, in which his minister followed the advice of the Education Relations Commission to the letter, which is exactly what this minister has been doing, and this minister has been monitoring the situation very carefully.

I believe I have the authority necessary within the regulations, as they exist, to make the modifications necessary to the school year to ensure that the students' year is protected. The modifications we had suggested yesterday in the legislation were, quite frankly, there to alleviate any concerns about that being the case, but the right exists there through regulation. If there's a need to amend those regulations, I'm sure the member knows full well that we can do that, and we will do that.

I will be expecting to hear over the next couple of days from the school board with the plans it has, but I will not hesitate to amend those plans and to direct otherwise if I'm not satisfied that they've adequately addressed the issue of the school year for the students.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville):** My question is to the Minister of Labour. Minister, farmers and farm groups have been informally demanding that you look at them as a separate group of people. They have now formally made a request, that agriculture be covered under a separate legislative act. Do you agree with that request and are you intending to recommend that to cabinet?

**Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour):** I'm fairly certain the member also knows that in the course of our discussions and in looking at the Ontario Labour Relations Act, we have set up a task force composed of labour unions and other parties to take a look at the situation in the agricultural area. It is our hope that we can see them included in the OLRA, but we have left it up to them to come in with specific recommendations to us and we have given them a time line. My understanding is that the talks are going along very well.

**Mr Villeneuve:** The way the labour law proposal was drafted by your ministry clearly demonstrates that your ministry does not understand the situation out in rural Ontario that faces, and could potentially face, farmers, if indeed your labour law comes in as we think it will, as your cards were shown. Can the minister assure the House and family farms across this province, that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food will indeed be the ministry to oversee any labour law that comes in pertaining to agriculture?

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** I think the member is going to have to wait till we submit the legislation to this House, which should be very shortly, and then he can take a look at what we're recommending.

#### TORONTO WATERFRONT

**Mr Rosario Marchese (Fort York):** My question is to the Minister of the Environment. I am glad that Crombie's final report, *Regeneration: Toronto: Waterfront of the Sustainable City*, has been released. I would like to know from the minister what the government's response is to this report.

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area):** I'm glad to have an opportunity to comment on the final report of the Crombie commission, which was released this morning, which I will be tabling with the Clerk later on today, and which is available to all members.

There will, I'm sure, be a statement in this House when the government has come to a conclusion on the specific recommendations and developed government policy with respect to those recommendations, but I'm delighted to be able to say to the House today that we are very pleased with and proud of the report of the royal commission. We think the principles that have been enunciated, the approach that has been taken, are very consistent with the work that this government has been doing through the Sewell commission, through the development of a wetlands policy, through the Ontario round table, through the GTA Vision document.

The Crombie report is a landmark document about the future of the waterfront and the rivers that feed that waterfront within the GTA bioregion. We very much support the approach and principles embodied in that report, and we have moved to implement—

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order, the member for York Centre.

1500

**Hon Mrs Grier:** We have moved to implement many of the recommendations with respect to that. The waterfront regeneration trust, the legislation for which will be debated in this House this session, will go a long way—

**The Speaker:** Could the minister conclude her response.

**Hon Mrs Grier:** —to making those recommendations a reality.

**Mr Marchese:** The interim report, as well as other reports, points to municipal sewers as being major contributors to the pollution problems on the waterfront. Minister, what is your ministry doing now to address this problem?

**Hon Mrs Grier:** My ministry is taking many actions to address that problem. As the Crombie report points out, there is no one action that will solve the long-standing problems on our waterfront. The announcement I made a couple of weeks ago about the thrust of pollution prevention and the need for industries, householders and institutions to control their pollution before they discharge it into

waterways and sewers goes a long way to dealing with some of the problems we have had.

I am delighted that all of the municipalities within the GTA have adopted the model sewer use bylaw that was developed by my predecessor the member for St Catharines. That goes some way to preventing the discharge of contaminants that have been hitherto going straight through the sewage treatment plants. In dealing with beaches, we have cleanup programs that contributed to fewer beach closings last year. Looking at land use, at urban water runoff, at the separation of storm sewers, all those kinds of actions, will contribute to a cleaner, greener waterfront in the GTA.

#### HEALTH SERVICES

**Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre):** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Last autumn I asked the Minister of Health, at a rally that took place on the steps of the Legislature, if there was a place for the private sector in the operation of nursing homes under an NDP government in Ontario. She did not answer that question. Yesterday I asked the Minister of Health, in this House, if there was a place for the private sector in the operation of commercial laboratories under an NDP government in Ontario. She did not answer that question. We know that the government's approach to child care in Ontario is to put the private sector out of business, at a cost of \$100 million.

I am asking the Deputy Premier to speak honestly, succinctly and with clarity and advise the House and the people of Ontario if it is the intention of this government to eliminate the private sector in the delivery of health care services in these or other sectors.

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier):** I believe the request was to respond honestly, succinctly and with clarity. That is a tall order, Mr Speaker. I want to assure the member opposite that this government does not have a hidden agenda or game plan to drive the private sector out of the health care system.

**Mrs Sullivan:** I wonder if the Deputy Premier might want to reconsider that response, because I'm told on good authority that there is a secret task force in the Ministry of Health whose mandate is to develop a plan of decommercialization. The role of this secret group is to develop plans to eliminate the for-service funding and to replace the private sector operations in nursing homes, laboratories and long-term residential care. The secret task force has a time line and specific authorization for its work.

I am asking the Deputy Premier, as the person in the House today who speaks for the government as a whole, if he will confirm that the government intends to eliminate the private sector in health care delivery and tell us the timetable, the cost and the method of doing so.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** If I could begin my response by assuring the member that nothing this government does is secret, despite our best efforts from time to time, I am not in a position to respond to the member opposite in a very direct way, but I will be very happy to take this matter up with the Minister of Health, have a friendly chat with her and respond further to the member.

#### USE OF QUESTION PERIOD

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: What's happening is totally unacceptable, and I think you have to rule on it. Everyone on this side of the House is upset. I think you should stop the clock; you should put more time back on the clock. We've had two ministers here give ministerial statements. We've had ridiculous questions being asked: "Please give us an update," and "Where do we go from here?" This is an obvious disrespect for the role of the opposition in this Legislature. Sir, if you don't rule against these guys, then I question your ruling very strongly.

I would ask you to look under section 31 in the document by which you, sir, are to run this place and to analyse whether or not it is fair that they are simply allowed to stand up and filibuster and go on congratulating the minister, being absolutely disrespectful of you, I suggest, of the rules and of the role of the opposition.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** To the member for Mississauga West, I appreciate the concern he has with respect to the types of questions that are asked. It is not the Speaker's role to determine whether one question is of greater importance than another question. It's simply stated that if the question is of public importance, the member has the right to ask the question. Ministers may respond if they wish to; they are not obliged to respond.

**Mr Mahoney:** Mr Speaker, it says right here, "If in the opinion of the minister or the Speaker the question requires a lengthy answer, either the minister or the Speaker may require it to be placed on the Orders and Notices paper as a written inquiry." You do have the authority to make that decision.

**The Speaker:** We're not going to debate this, but I will point out to the member for Mississauga West that indeed on occasion I have requested of ministers that if it's going to be a lengthy response, they have the possibility of tabling a detailed reply. However, to determine whether one question is of greater importance than another is not the role of the Speaker. If the question is of public importance it should be allowed, and then the minister can respond either succinctly or, if it's going to be detailed, then table the response.

**Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: When the member for Dufferin-Peel rose in the House to try to ask his question there were four minutes and 40 seconds left on the clock. With respect, sir, I would ask you to restore that time to the clock.

**The Speaker:** To the member for Parry Sound, may I assure him that the colleague who waited patiently will have the opportunity to ask his question and supplementary within the normal confines I provide for this chamber.

#### VITAL STATISTICS REGISTRATION

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Minister, when you moved the office of registrar general up to Thunder Bay, presumably you did that for a number of reasons, one of which was to save money and, second, for the subject of efficiency.

I'd like to tell the minister a very brief story with respect to the efficiency that's going on in the office of the registrar general. Richard Reeves of Waterloo put an application in to the registrar general's office after the birth of his daughter. The birth certificate came back two months later stating that his daughter was born in Kapuskasing. She wasn't born in Kapuskasing; she was born in Kitchener.

Two months after that, after making further inquiries, he received a corrected birth certificate stating that his daughter had become a son. After six months of frustration in trying to correct all that, he called the registrar general's office in Thunder Bay. He was told that there was a fast way and slow way of correcting these matters. The fast way was to fill out a new application form and pay again—pay again for a mistake made by your ministry in the first place. He was then told he would have to make a decision.

I think it's time the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations made a decision. When are you going to solve the painfully obvious problems all of us in this House are experiencing and all of us are experiencing around this province with respect to the birth certificates and death certificates that are so badly needed?

1510

**Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations):** I've acknowledged in this House and will acknowledge again that we have experienced great difficulties since the move. On the positive side, however, which the member did not mention, the move did create some 100 jobs or more in Thunder Bay. I believe when the Liberals made the decision to make the move, that was part of the decision.

I'm happy to say things are improving. I have been taking—

**Mr Tilson:** They're not improving.

**Hon Ms Churley:** They certainly are improving. In fact, I have heard from members opposite—

**Mr Tilson:** They are not. They are getting worse. You got a letter today.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order.

**Hon Ms Churley:** It's clear members opposite do not want an answer to this question. The services are improving. Get your individual case to me and I will try to act on it, which is what I have been doing, dealing with these problems that have been going on for some time. Get the information to me. If anybody has particular emergency problems, please let me know and I will help you with them.

**Mr Tilson:** I think every member in this House will tell you that the problem is getting worse. It's not getting better; it's getting worse and worse and worse. It's taking longer. More and more strange stories are occurring. A constituent of mine suddenly became younger when his birth certificate was reissued; your ministry dropped months from his age. Then you wrote his mailing address incorrectly and the corrected birth certificate was lost in

the mail. When is the registrar general's office going to clean up its act?

**Hon Ms Churley:** Mr Speaker, I couldn't hear the question because of the noise from his own caucus. Please inform me of the particular case. Get the facts to me and my office and we will look into it. But I can assure you that our statistics are showing and letters we have received from members opposite lately are telling us things are improving, and they are. I will continue to work on this problem and make sure these improvements continue.

**The Speaker:** The time for oral questions has expired.

#### NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** If members would take their seats, I will acknowledge you one by one. Pursuant to standing order 33, the member for Scarborough-Agincourt has given notice of his dissatisfaction—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** I ask the House to come to order. Pursuant to standing order 33, the member for Scarborough-Agincourt has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Treasurer and Minister of Economics concerning budget information contained in a constituency communication. This matter will be debated today at 6 pm.

Point of order, the member for York Centre first.

#### USE OF QUESTION PERIOD

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** My point of order arises under standing orders 31 and 32. It relates to a question asked today by the member for Fort York to the minister responsible for the greater Toronto area. My quandary is this. This morning the Honourable David Crombie, the commissioner for the study of waterfront redevelopment in Ontario and in the greater Toronto area, held a press conference. He presented at that press conference a document, which I have here in my hand, entitled *Regeneration*. At 10 o'clock this morning as well, that document was tabled in the federal House of Commons and became a public document.

I asked the minister responsible for the greater Toronto area whether she was going to make a statement today concerning the tabling of this document. She responded to me privately that indeed she was not, that she didn't want to speak about it until she had had an opportunity to table the document, which I understand she is going to do later today. Notwithstanding that, I noticed an arrangement between her and the member for Fort York prior to his question, which was on this very document.

There is a basic rule of law that states, "Thou shalt not be allowed to do indirectly what one cannot do directly." It is against our standing orders to make a ministerial statement during question period, and the reason we have that rule is simple. Our standing orders—and you'll see it in section 31—provide that when a minister makes a ministerial statement, we as opposition members are allowed five minutes, not very much time, to respond to that statement.

All of us in the House were shocked that the minister responsible for the greater Toronto area refused to make a statement about this document. It's a terribly important

planning document. It is going to affect the life of virtually every single resident in the greater Toronto area, and that's about four million people.

It is my view, and I submit to you, sir, that what the minister did today with the question from the member for Fort York was to create for herself an opportunity, through her answer to the question, to make a statement in this Legislature and to the thousands and thousands of people who are watching this Legislature relating to this report. But what she denied, in doing it during question period, was the opportunity for those of us who are here in this Legislature to offer a slightly different perspective, an opportunity to comment on the statement that she made.

I invite you, sir, to do a couple of things: to review very carefully the Hansard of today's question period and note in the questioning between the member for Fort York and the minister for the greater Toronto area that if you take away the words "May I ask the minister," what you will see is the basis of a ministerial statement.

We on this side will not tolerate being denied over and over again an opportunity to comment, under the rules of this House, on government business. If you review that material you will see that it's a minister's statement, and I ask you to, under section 31, bring the Minister of the Environment to order and require her in the future to make her minister's statements in ministers' statements time in this Legislature.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** On the same point of order? The government House leader.

**Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader):** I just have one point to make to the honourable member who raised the point of order and to you, Mr Speaker. The report that he is referring to will be tabled in the House today. Ministerial statements—

Interjection.

**The Speaker:** Order, the member for York Centre. The government House leader.

**Hon Mr Cooke:** The minister will be tabling the report today. There is no ministerial statement to make on a report when there isn't a government policy that flows out of it until it has been reviewed, analysed and responded to by the government. When there is a ministerial statement to be made, it will be when there's government policy flowing out of it.

Mr Speaker, what happens to the government in the House is that if we had made a ministerial statement tabling the report, the same member who just complained would get up and complain that there was nothing of substance in the ministerial statement because there hadn't been a government policy developed yet. You can't win around this place. I thought Lyn McLeod was going to lead a different type of opposition party instead of always complaining and opposing.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. The Leader of the Opposition.

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr Speaker, I will avoid, as a point of privilege, responding to the personal allegation which the member has just made.

But I do want to add to the point of order made by my colleague that the reason this point of order is being raised is because there was a question from one of the minister's own colleagues. The minister was well aware the question was coming. If there was a response to the question, there could well have been the substance of a statement to this House. If it had not been that situation, we would not have raised the point of order today.

**The Speaker:** Just a minute. Is it to the third party House leader on the same point of order?

1520

**Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound):** On the same point of order, Mr Speaker: I would also like to address not only the response to a question by the Minister of the Environment and the minister responsible for the greater Toronto area, but also a response to a question today by the Minister of Natural Resources, who in part in his answer, to be fair, was reading figures from a press release which his ministry issued earlier in the week. If he wasn't here to read that statement to the House on that day, then at least he could have had respect for the rest of the members and done it by way of a ministerial statement.

I note today that there were about 15 minutes left during ministerial statements. There were two ministers here today who obviously could have used those 15 minutes, ie, the Minister of Natural Resources and the minister responsible for the greater Toronto area. I would submit to you that is the more appropriate place for these ministers to make their statements, so that the opposition is not denied their right to respond.

One of my colleagues earlier today was criticized by the government because he was commenting on the non-statement that the minister for the greater Toronto area did not make today. Then, after berating him, she used one of her own colleagues to make the statement that she should have made during ministerial statements, and this is indeed an abuse of the opposition's right to respond to government statements and ministers of the crown.

Now, I would ask you to seriously look at this overall picture, because this isn't the first time this has happened, and I feel that matter has to be dealt with.

**The Speaker:** Just a minute. Before entertaining any more information or advice, I would like to make something very clear, and then if members feel that it's essential to add more information, fine, but perhaps you would just indulge the Speaker for a moment.

I understand fully the point raised by the member for York Centre. All members of the House may recall that on previous occasions I have indeed requested, although the Speaker cannot compel it, that ministers take every opportunity to make statements to the House during that period of time allotted for ministerial statements.

At the same time, however, I am pleased to take a look at Hansard, at all that has taken place today, and to review the standing orders and any other information that will assist me and report back to the House as soon as possible. But I must reiterate that I understand fully the points raised by the members of the opposition and have considerable sympathy for what it is they're raising.

Something additional? First the member for York Centre, then the member for Mississauga East.

**Mr Sorbara:** I appreciate your commitment to look at this matter seriously. The reason I'm back up on my feet is a result of comments made by the government House leader, the member for Windsor-Riverside, in his submissions on this matter. I think it's important, sir, to ensure that the information you have at hand is the correct information. His submissions to you were to the effect that it would be inappropriate to make a statement on a document not yet tabled in this House. I beg to differ, sir, and I beg to differ strongly.

**Hon Mr Cooke:** It's not what I said.

**Mr Sorbara:** Well, if you just check Hansard, my friend, you'll find that's what was said.

He also suggested another point which I think needs clarification, particularly given the fact that you are going to direct some attention to this matter.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Sorbara:** He suggested, sir, that there was no government policy emerging yet from this document. I simply want to refer to you, sir, for your consideration, the very words of standing order 31, which are as follows: "A minister of the crown may make a short factual statement relating to government policy, ministry action or other similar matters of which the House should be informed."

Surely that standing order says that the matter may be one of policy. It may be one of action, including the tabling of a report or the reception of a report, and the minister herself was at the press conference this morning when the report was made public.

**The Speaker:** To the member for York Centre, I appreciate his additional contribution.

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** Mr Speaker, with respect to your particular earlier indication as to what you're going to be doing and in light of some of the statements that have already been made by members, I would like to add some further information. I trust you might find this helpful. You will note, and I believe with approximately 22 minutes and five seconds remaining in question period, the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay asked a question to the Minister of Natural Resources. The time for that question and supplementary drove down the time for question period to something in the area of 18:57. I think if it's possible to check that against Hansard, that will be verified. So I ask you to keep in mind that by doing so we have been denied certain times with respect to question period.

Under standing order 31(a), and I would ask you to specifically direct your attention to (a), (c) and (d), it reads that, "A minister of the crown may make a short factual statement relating to government policy, ministry action or other similar matters of which the House should be informed."

I think if you review Hansard, you will see that the response by the Minister of Natural Resources was in fact government policy.

Under 31(c), I would remind you, Mr Speaker, that with respect to a ministerial statement, two copies of that ministerial statement are to be given to both the opposition and the third party. By not making a ministerial statement, not only has that not been done, but indeed we have not been given a statement.

The third aspect is, of course, the time permitted for us to comment, which was up to five minutes according to the rules of procedure.

With respect to the question that was lodged by the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay to the Minister of Natural Resources, we used up time in question period, which is for all members of the Legislature. It was on a matter which I would suggest falls directly within 31(a) and would be the subject matter of a ministerial statement, and we have also been refused our time to comment.

Fourth, I would direct your attention to the last line of standing order 32(a), which states that if there are any lengthy statements, they should be made under statements by the ministry. I believe the response made by the minister to the question was also of a lengthy nature and should have been used within the time period allocated to ministerial statements—

**The Speaker:** Would the member take his seat, please. Perhaps the member wasn't present, but I indicated earlier that I would be pleased to review what has occurred here today. I must, however, remind the member that all members are entitled, when recognized, to ask ministers questions about government policy. I assume that's a basic nature of question period. Another point of order?

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** Yes, sir. Under standing order 33(a), I rise to give notice that I am dissatisfied with the answer to an oral question from the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay directed towards the Minister of Natural Resources, and I will be filing an appropriate motion.

**The Speaker:** It's simply unfortunate that you hadn't posed the question. Then you could file dissatisfaction.

**Mr Elston:** It says here, "The Speaker's rulings relating to oral questions are not debatable or subject to appeal," with which I agree quite wholeheartedly. It then continues, "However, a member who is not satisfied with the response to an oral question...may give notice...at the end of...question period."

Mr Speaker, I am giving you notice under standing order 33(a) that I am not content with the answer to the question from the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay. Mr Speaker, just to give you notice, the requisite of written notice will be delivered, and I would like to see you deliberate on this because the standing orders are quite precise about "a member" and "an oral question."

1530

**The Speaker:** Would the member take his seat, please. I would be pleased to provide the member with some background rulings. However, I can assure the member that he will not have an opportunity to file dissatisfaction, and the reason I know this is because on a previous occasion a certain member from a riding attempted to do the very thing he's now attempting to do, and the Speaker

did not allow him to do it. However, I'm more than pleased to provide you with the background for that ruling.

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Section 31(a)—I would like to read the section so that all members will know specifically what I'm referring to—states: "A minister of the crown may make a short factual statement relating to government policy, ministry action or other similar matters of which the House should be informed."

**The Speaker:** What is this in relation to?

**Mrs Caplan:** My request to you, as you said you would review the events of today, is that you also review the precedents in this House, which have been established over quite a period of time, when ministers of the crown made statements which were not related to government policy but which did fit with section 31(a) and which were "other similar matters of which the House should be informed." That section of 31(a) runs contrary to what the government House leader stated today was the intent of 31(a).

As a member in this House since 1985, I believe you will find many precedents when ministers of the crown in fact made statements relating to "other similar matters of which the House should be informed" and which the opposition then had the opportunity to respond thereto. In your review of those matters, Mr Speaker, I think it would be helpful in ending the—

**The Speaker:** Would the member take her seat, please. I will indeed be pleased to include that. I thought I already had indicated that, but if that wasn't clear to her, I'm more than pleased to do so.

**Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South):** On the same point of order, Mr Speaker: I would like you, in your review, to consider the fact that freedom of speech in the Parliament of Canada or in the Legislature is afforded to us as members because that's really how we exchange thoughts and ideas in this chamber. Freedom of speech also requires that there be an allowance for people to respond to comments that are made by other members of the Legislature. In fact, with what has happened here by those questions being asked in line with the point of order that has been raised where there are ministerial statements and there is no opportunity to respond, the entire question and purpose of Parliament is being defeated.

**The Speaker:** Will the member take his seat. I have already indicated three times that I will review this matter. Motions?

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** Mr Speaker, a point of order.

**The Speaker:** I hope this is a new point of order.

**Mr Mahoney:** I don't think you have to look at me in such a scolding fashion, sir. I have the right to raise a point of order.

**The Speaker:** Do you have a new point of order?

**Mr Mahoney:** Yes, I do. You said earlier, sir, that you don't feel, as the Speaker, that you're in a position to instruct ministers on responding to questions, whether it be ministerial statements or whether it be an actual answer to

a question. You also said, sir, that you don't feel you have the right or the authority to influence the questions in the sense of either where they're coming from, who they're going to or what they're about.

This may require interpretation, I'm not sure; it seems very clear to me. I raised a point earlier that the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay—if you look at Hansard, you will see that the interrogative part of the question was, "Can the minister give us an update?" and the interrogative part of the supplementary was, "Where do we go from here?" Both of those interrogative questions were preceded by congratulatory remarks to the minister about what a wonderful job he was doing in relationship to the subject matter.

Section 32(a) of the standing orders of this Legislative Assembly, in addition to the information about the length of question period being 60 minutes long etc, clearly says—and I've highlighted this—"If in the opinion of the minister or the Speaker the question requires a lengthy answer, either the minister or the Speaker may require it to be placed on the Orders and Notices paper as a written inquiry of the ministry. The minister may take an oral question as notice to be answered orally on a future sessional day but where any reserved answer requires a lengthy statement, the statement"—and this is a key point—"shall be given"—not may be given—"under 'Statements by the Ministry and Responses.'" To me, sir, it is very clear.

It also says earlier that "the Speaker shall disallow any question which he or she does not consider urgent or of public importance." That's an earlier statement in that same section 32(a) of this document.

How you could ever consider, "Give us an update, Minister, and where do we go from here," to be of any significance or importance is totally beyond me. How you can suggest that you do not have the authority to require a minister who has to stand up and read from a press release information for this Legislature—which, I might add, we are all interested in hearing—or whether, on the other issue, the Minister of the Environment can stand up and give an answer to a document she's tabling and refuses to give a ministerial statement—I suggest to you that you do have the authority under section 32(a) of this document that we all try to go by and that you're not exercising that authority, with respect, in directing the government.

As long as you, sir, continue to allow this government to play these games, and you know they're games, where they throw a lob agreed to prior to question period, this is going to be nothing but a dust-up in this place. There will be no business conducted by the government. You have the authority to control that.

**The Speaker:** Would the member take his seat, please. I will be very pleased to provide the background information that may assist the member with respect to this entire process. I trust the member will realize it may take a little bit of time to do the appropriate research, but we will provide all of the background material that indeed he seems to want. Perhaps it will be of edification for all members in the chamber and assist in our question period moving more smoothly and productively, so that more members will have an opportunity to ask questions of the government.

## PETITIONS

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition which reads:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent, empirical studies of the impact that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

It's signed by a number of individuals, and I will affix my name thereto.

## MINE DISASTER

**Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin):** "To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the tragic disaster at the Westray coal mine in Plymouth, Nova Scotia, is affecting many former Ontario miners and their families, including at least four who worked in the mines in Elliot Lake, which is in my riding;

"Whereas a tremendous outpouring of concern for all of the families affected has prompted mining communities across the country, including Elliot Lake, to respond with fund-raising campaigns and messages of encouragement and sympathy;

"Whereas many Ontario miners went to Westray following mine downsizing and layoffs in the Ontario mining industry,

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To formally express the province's awareness and concern for all of the miners and their families affected by the Nova Scotia disaster, with particular acknowledgement of all former Ontario miners who must leave the province to find work wherever they can find it."

I concur with this petition.

1540

## REAL ESTATE GAINS

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the government of Ontario has promised to introduce a new tax on real estate gains; and

"Whereas there is simply no evidence to suggest that real estate gains taxes either contribute to lower land and housing prices or raise significant revenue for the government; and

"Whereas in some cases a new tax on real estate gains may even raise prices by reducing supply; and

"Whereas the tax as proposed in the NDP's Agenda for People will adversely affect the entire real estate market in our community; and

"Whereas real estate gains are already subject to heavy taxation from federal and provincial governments,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to urge the Honourable Floyd Laughren,

Treasurer of Ontario, not to proceed with an additional tax on real estate gains."

I'm affixing my signature to this.

## MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

**Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex):** I have a petition signed by 34 citizens of Lobo township in the county of Middlesex, who urge the members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to reject the report of the greater London arbitrator, Mr John Brant. Many of us in Middlesex have grave concerns regarding the size of the annexation and recommendations within the report. This is an issue of the utmost importance. I have signed my name to this petition.

**Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand):** I have a petition to the Legislature of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

It is signed by 22 persons of the area and signed by myself.

## REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr Paul Wessenger (Simcoe Centre):** I have a petition signed by some employees of racetracks.

"We, the undersigned, part of the 50,000 people Ontario directly employed in horse racing, wish to convey our extreme concern regarding the opening of casinos and the introduction of video lottery terminals. As has been shown by the experience of other jurisdictions, the resulting reduction in parimutuel wagering at racetracks will cause immediate job losses and increased demands on UI benefits and social assistance.

"Ontario currently taxes racing at a higher rate than all other jurisdictions in North America. Our industry has already suffered an 11% reduction in revenue as a result of government-sponsored lotteries.

"Racetracks and horsemen are barely surviving now. If either casinos or video lotteries are introduced in Ontario, the result will be a racing industry so weakened that not only will government tax revenues fall immediately but many of us will no longer be employed.

"We ask that you inform yourselves of the ramifications of your decisions on these issues."

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition signed by management employees of PPG Canada Inc, which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent, empirical studies of the impact that

amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

I have signed my name.

#### REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** I have a petition addressed as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Ontario government has indicated it has plans to open gambling establishments in Niagara and other locations in Ontario,

"As a result, we, the undersigned, petition the Parliament to do the following:

"To abandon such plans for legalized gambling."

I have affixed my signature to this and am in support of this particular petition.

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I don't know if there're any other members who have petitions, Mr Speaker, but I have a number of petitions. I would like to use the remaining time to read them in. If there are any other members who do have petitions, I would be more than happy to give the floor to them to read their petitions.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Appropriately, we'll do one at a time and after each one I'll check to see if there are any other members.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent, empirical studies of the impact that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

Those have been signed by members and employees of Vanroboys Enterprises Ltd, and I affix my name.

I have a further petition on the absolute same subject matter. It has been provided to me by Huron Middlesex Engineering Ltd employees, and I will affix my name thereto.

On the same issue, dealing with a request for the Minister of Labour to table results of independent empirical studies on the impact that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments, I have a petition signed by employees of Irvin Industries Canada Ltd and I will affix my name to this petition.

I have a further petition on the same subject matter provided to me by employees of Lafarge Canada Inc, and I am pleased to affix my signature to this petition.

I have a further petition on the same subject matter, dealing with the need for empirical studies to the impact of Labour Relations Act amendments. It is signed by employees of Lennox Industries Canada Ltd and I affix my signature thereto.

I have a petition signed by employees of Peachtree Doors Canada, division of Indal Ltd, signed by members

who are concerned about the impact that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs, and I affix my name thereto.

I have a petition on the same subject matter provided to me by employees of Truck and Tractor Equipment Ltd and I will affix my signature thereto.

I have a further petition by employees of Wilson Display. They are signing a petition which indicates their concern about the impact amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs, and ask the Minister of Labour to table results of independent empirical studies before proceeding with those amendments, and I affix my signature thereto.

I have a further petition on the same subject matter provided to me by members and employees of Colonial Tool Textron, which is a division of Textron Canada Ltd, and I affix my signature thereto.

Once more, I have a petition on the same subject matter provided to me by M & T Harshaw Quality Plating Technologies, again by members concerned with respect to the impact that changes to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs, and I affix my signature thereto.

Again, a further petition, this by employees of Stewart Construction Inc, and I affix my signature.

I have a petition which has been signed by members of Buddsteel Architectural Products Ltd, individuals who are concerned with respect to the impact that changes to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs, and I affix my signature thereto.

I have a petition signed by members of New Vision Construction Co Ltd. It is by individuals concerned with respect to the impact that changes to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs, and I affix my signature thereto.

I noticed that the member for Cochrane South was questioning these petitions. I can assure you that these are petitions by concerned individuals from a great many companies and employees.

#### 1550

This is a petition signed by employees of Ingersoll-Rand Door Hardware, members who are concerned about the impact of changes to the Labour Relations Act on investment and jobs, and I affix my signature thereto.

I have a petition on the same subject matter signed by members of Sullivan Strong Scott, and I affix my signature thereto.

I have a petition on the same subject matter, same wording, signed by members of Chil-Con Products Ltd who are concerned with the impact that changes to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs, and I have signed my name.

I have a petition signed by members of Sullivan Strong Scott, again with respect to changes and their concern as to the impact these will have on jobs and investment, and I have signed my name.

I have a petition signed by members of Reliance Comm/Tec, again the subject matter being the same, and I have signed my name to this petition.

I have a petition by the same company, Reliance Comm/Tec, and employees of that company on the same subject matter, and I have signed my name.

I have a petition signed by members of Tokheim of Canada Ltd, again on the same subject matter, expressing concern with respect to the impact the Labour Relations Act will have on jobs and investment, and I have signed my name.

I have a further petition signed by members of Sullivan Strong Scott on the issue of changes to the Labour Relations Act, and I have signed my name.

I have a petition signed by members of Danko Brothers Construction Ltd, which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent, empirical studies of the effect that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

I have signed my name to this petition. I would like to thank the pages.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The time allotted for the presentation of petitions has expired. Reports by committees? Introduction of bills? Orders of the day.

**Mr D. James Henderson (Etobicoke-Humber):** I have a bill to be introduced today. I think we moved rather quickly from introduction of bills to orders of the day. This bill must be introduced today.

**The Speaker:** Do we have unanimous agreement to revert to introduction of bills? Agreed? Agreed.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### HUMAN TISSUE GIFT AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

#### LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LE DON DE TISSUS HUMAINS

Mr Henderson moved first reading of Bill 19, An Act to amend the Human Tissue Gift Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur le don de tissus humains.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr Henderson:** This bill requires hospitals to seek consent from the family of a deceased patient to remove tissue from the body of the deceased for transplant purposes. The hospital is required to seek consent in all situations except for certain situations which are set out in the bill.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### RETAIL SALES TAX AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

#### LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LA TAXE DE VENTE AU DÉTAIL

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for third reading of Bill 130, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la taxe de vente au détail.

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** I welcome the opportunity to complete my remarks from yesterday, which were of some length, on this issue.

This particular bill and the purpose of this debate is to determine whether the government should complete third reading or proceed with third reading of this bill. As I indicated yesterday, I recognize this means it's a narrower debate than perhaps some of us would like, but that opportunity was presented on second reading. I wanted to touch on a few more items that I think are relevant to this particular issue and attempt to encourage members of the governing side to agree with me and with the other opposition party that this bill should not be proceeded with.

I should indicate at the beginning of my remarks that this is a bill which results from the last budget of Ontario, the one the Treasurer presented in 1991, not the one he presented in 1992. The reason I say that is that it's important to note there was some considerable pressure placed on the government not to proceed with certain recommendations that came from the NDP tax commission, which suggested that not only should this tax not be removed but it should be expanded. The result of that expansion would be even more detrimental than the tax itself.

The history of the tax, to touch on that extremely briefly, is that in the budget a measure was presented for consideration of the House which indicated it should be a very extensive tax, and a very expensive tax at the same time. There was considerable pressure from the automotive industry, from representatives of the Canadian Auto Workers union, particularly at the local levels but also from the national level. Also there was some considerable opposition from those who are involved in car dealerships and those who work in car dealerships.

I indicated to the Treasurer at the time that if he were to modify it in such a manner as I could agree with, I would not call the retreat. There were some modifications that took place; however, those modifications were insufficient to alleviate the concerns of those of us in the opposition and I'm sure of many who reside in auto-making communities or communities where parts for automobiles are manufactured. That is why I have referred to it on many occasions as a tax on auto workers, because ultimately I think that's what it amounts to. It is not placed on auto workers as a punitive tax; quite obviously that's not the goal of the tax. But the result of the implementation of this tax measure is what I'm concerned about, and I think it would be a tax on those who work in the automotive industry.

It's interesting that there aren't many occasions where, publicly, representatives of both the Canadian Auto Workers union and the automotive industry itself, in plants organized by the CAW, are in agreement on a number of issues out there, but there is agreement on this issue, that this tax can have a detrimental effect on the automotive industry.

I indicated yesterday the importance of that industry, and I don't want to go into detail on that again. Suffice it to say that everyone in Canada and people of all parties who have served in the Legislature recognize the importance of the automotive industry.

The Speaker is from Scarborough. The Scarborough van plant is scheduled to close in the not too distant future, and of course that has an effect on the people who are there.

When General Motors or other companies are making a decision as to where they're going to maintain their investment or where they're going to place new investment, they look at a number of factors. Those factors are sometimes influenced by the provincial government, sometimes by the federal government, sometimes by local authorities.

We are elected in this Legislature to deal with provincial issues. I know there are many who would say, "Why don't you deal with the other problems out there? Why don't you deal with free trade, the high dollar," and those things that are often referred to in this House. I did in fact make reference to that yesterday, but those of us who are elected to the Legislative Assembly, I believe, should as much as possible confine ourselves to those areas where we have specific jurisdiction.

1600

I thought that some of the information that General Motors provided was extremely helpful to us and I thought some of the remarks of people within the trade union movement, the Canadian Auto Workers, were indeed helpful as well.

I saw a particular paragraph in a letter I received from Maureen Kempston Darkes, who is a representative of General Motors. This particular paragraph, I thought, capsulizes the concern of General Motors when she says the following:

"Sales of new vehicles in Canada are at their lowest levels since 1983. Automotive dealerships have been severely impacted by this downturn. In fact, based on a recent Ontario treasury report, employment in all car dealerships was 24.9% lower in the first six months of 1991 compared to the same period in 1990. We believe that the provincial government must focus on policies which will stimulate consumer confidence, generate new vehicle sales and accelerate Ontario's overall recovery."

It's interesting even for the whole country. We in Ontario have been hit particularly hard in this recession. That hasn't always been the case. In other recessions, other parts of the country have often been hit harder than we have. In this recession Ontario, as the Premier has stated on a number of occasions, has been particularly hard hit. When he's been in contact with and in conversation with representatives of the federal government, he has appropriately pointed this out, and indicated that in the past Ontario was perhaps able to climb out of a recession by itself, but in this case it will require some assistance from the federal government.

However, some of the suggestions that have come forward from the auto makers have been very valuable in helping us decide in this Legislature whether we should proceed with this bill. They talked about the tax for fuel conservation that was proposed and is part of this whole debate. They made some salient points, I think, about the tax for fuel conservation. I'll use the terminology TFFC, which stands for tax for fuel conservation, to limit the amount of debate. They said the following:

"The TFFC does not promote reduced fuel use. We have analysed this tax from an economic and environmental perspective and have identified a number of fundamental flaws which we believe makes it ineffective for promoting fuel conservation and for improving the environment."

As I say, they make basically five points here that I think are very helpful in this particular debate.

First: "The underlying problem with the TFFC is that it has no impact on the most important factor determining overall vehicle fuel consumption—the price of gasoline. Since the TFFC is based on the fuel economy level of new vehicles and not on the price of fuel, it has no effect on how these vehicles are used. Indeed, because it does nothing to address the cost of driving, any fuel economy improvements induced by it are partially 'taken back' through more miles driven."

I make a second point: "Additionally, the TFFC is a very narrowly focused policy measure. Because the tax only impacts purchasers of new vehicles, it can at best only affect the fuel economy level of the on-road new vehicle fleet. New vehicles represent less than 10% of all vehicles driven in Ontario. While an effective program would influence the fuel use of all vehicles in the province, the TFFC only impacts a very small proportion of the total vehicle population."

I make a third point: "Over the last two decades, manufacturers have dramatically improved the fuel economy of new vehicles. Today's new passenger cars are over 125% more fuel-efficient than they were in the early 1970s. Likewise, vehicle emissions have also been reduced by 90% on average from uncontrolled levels. Government programs such as the TFFC which increase the capital and financing cost of new vehicles, slow down their introduction into the marketplace, delaying the positive impact new technology has on the environment."

Fourth point: "The TFFC has the potential to influence customer choice towards import products. This is because customers continue to perceive these vehicles as more fuel-efficient than North American products. While this is not the case, consumer perceptions are slow to change. Any tax which unfairly distorts the market in favour of foreign vehicles must be avoided."

"Finally," and the fifth point they make, "the TFFC ignores the fact that vehicles which have certain features such as four-wheel drive, cargo- and passenger-carrying capacity and the capacity to tow other vehicles provide specific utility to consumers, and may actually be extremely fuel-efficient. Moreover, many of these vehicles have commercial applications and are purchased by businesses, as well as provincial and municipal government bodies, including police forces, because of the unique features they provide."

They conclude by saying the following: "In short, the TFFC is an ineffective mechanism for promoting fuel conservation. Indeed, there are other policy measures which the government could implement which would provide greater and more immediate environmental benefits and the same amount of revenue to the government without negatively impacting the automotive industry."

I think they've made some good points in this particular presentation that they have made to us. Very often you say, "Well, they're self-serving because they're an industry which benefits from consumers making those purchases," but I look at it from the point of view of the number of people who are employed by the automotive industry in the province of Ontario, and I know that those people are extremely concerned about the future of their jobs.

I'm not going to read into the record the exhibits that they provide, but they do provide some excellent exhibits which talk about the vehicles registered in Ontario in July 1990, which they use as their year. I'll just pick a couple of figures out of this, that in 1990—I guess the model year 1990—there were 255,325 cars and 105,324 light-duty trucks. Let me compare this with the other end of the graph, rather than go right down the graph: For pre-1983 vehicles, there are 1,439,987 cars and 344,997 light-duty trucks.

If you consider that, it looks like a lot of people are retaining vehicles which are previous to 1983. That means they're driving vehicles which do not have good fuel efficiency in the first case, and that means in the second case that the emission controls on those vehicles are considerably inferior to the new vehicles that we have in the province.

They have some charts that talk about the emissions from vehicles, and I won't go into the details of those, except to say that there have been some substantial improvements in emissions over the years. They have several exhibits, I think, which are very helpful to those of us in the assembly.

I appreciate that General Motors has done this, but it affects all industries in the city of St Catharines. We have Hayes Dana, which produces parts for North American vehicles; we have TRW, Thomas Products Division, the same thing.

I guess we would say that in the automotive industry in the city of St Catharines alone—I know that in Niagara Falls and the adjacent area there's the Ford glass plant—but in St Catharines alone we would have well over 10,000 people who are directly employed in the automotive industry, about 8,500 in General Motors itself before the regional announcements, and of course, as I mentioned, with Hayes Dana and TRW and several of the plants that service the major auto parts manufacturers in our area, you can see that it's an important industry.

The tax is a deterrent to sales. I was talking to one of our own members who had listened to at least a portion of my speech yesterday and she mentioned that one of her relatives was about to—wanted to at least—make a purchase of a new vehicle, and when she looked at the potential cost, all taxes in, not just this tax, discovered that it was just not possible to make that purchase this year, so that has been postponed.

That means a lot of the decisions made by the auto-making companies are being made based to a certain extent on present sales. If we had an immediate boost to those sales in the province of Ontario, I think we would see perhaps a bit of a different approach by the automotive companies, as they could see some light at the end of the tunnel. That light is not very visible at the present. It's a bit

of a flicker, and we're all hopeful it will return to good times.

Nobody relishes what's happening in Ontario or Canada at the present time in terms of the recession. I mentioned previously in another debate that some people believe that people in opposition always hope the worst is going to happen and the government hopes the best is going to happen. I happen to be a person who hopes the best is always going to happen. There will always be issues we are able to challenge the government on and we always hope it's not based on the misery of people in our own communities, as it is at the present time.

1610

I mentioned as well that there is some considerable opposition, and has been for several months, from some representatives of the Canadian Auto Workers. When there was a suggestion that this tax would be expanded, for instance, Mr Harold Stubbart, who is the chairman of Local 199 bargaining unit, was asked by the local newspaper to make a comment on it. Mr Stubbart came forward with the following suggestion. Instead of another tax, he suggested some kind of program that would encourage owners to give up their older vehicles for newer, more fuel-efficient models. I think that is a view that is shared by those who work in the automotive industry and by those of us who know the importance of the automotive industry to our communities.

General Motors made an observation which said the following, "It will discourage consumers from buying new vehicles, resulting in the older, less fuel-efficient vehicles staying on the road longer." That was a press release put out by George Peapples, a statement he had made on a Thursday in March. He added, "Today's passenger cars have more than doubled their fuel efficiency since the 1970s and vehicle emissions have also been reduced by an average of 90%."

Mr Peapples has said that. Mr Stubbart has had an observation to make. I'm sure that on many occasions there are individuals who would agree with a lot of what the government of Ontario is doing. They have isolated this as an area where they have some disagreement.

Members will know of some of the more colourful observations that were made about this tax when it was first announced. We have to remember sometimes, putting it in the proper context, that we are dealing with a tax from last year's budget and not this year's budget, which in itself is rather interesting.

There was an open letter sent to the Premier of Ontario. I quote from an open letter to the Premier and the Treasurer from General Motors Local 199 bargaining unit in St Catharines at the time the original tax was introduced: "Lower emission standards are the answer to saving the environment, not higher taxes." I could not agree more with that particular statement.

It also said GM workers' jobs in St Catharines could be threatened because they produce the V-6 and V-8 engines for vehicles that are subject to the tax:

"Auto workers, as individuals or through their unions, played a major role in the election of the government and contributed tens of thousands of dollars from their wages

to that end. We don't expect special treatment, but we do expect fair treatment and not to find our jobs threatened by ludicrous tax policies."

That is what the Local 199 bargaining unit had to say when this tax was first introduced, and again I agree with that particular contention. It's worded in quite a strong fashion, but certainly I think everyone in our community could agree with the particular contention that is brought forward.

John Clout, who used to be president of the Local 199 bargaining unit and is now working for the national union CAW, was even more strong in his comments when this tax was first announced. He had written a letter to the editor, in fact, publicly.

Mr Clout, as I have indicated to members of this House on many occasions, is a person who doesn't pull his punches. It doesn't matter what party's in power, he is not an apologist for anybody. He doesn't simply say, "Well, it's an NDP government so I'll just apologize for whatever they do and defend whatever they do." Tory governments have felt his wrath, Liberal governments have felt his wrath and in this case an NDP government, because he speaks his mind as he sees the issue and its importance to auto workers in his area.

He said the following in a letter to the editor:

"While I still hope for some good things from this government, its stupidity and incompetence is quickly leading me to lose faith, as I know it is many of our members. This government, in particular our local MPPs, had better understand that we are workers and unionists first and NDP members or supporters second. So they better get their act together and rescind this tax," and put it where it belongs.

I indicated previously that I agreed with his contention. I'm one of the local members, so I suppose this is aimed at me as much as it is at anybody else. I certainly agree with his contention on this specific issue. He worded it very strongly and perhaps the ears of some of the members of the government were burning; nevertheless, he's a very straightforward individual.

He had the following to say as well. I quoted him back on May 14, 1991, as saying the following:

"Imposing this tax at this time on an industry that represents the industrial base of our community and province and which is reeling already from the free trade agreement is mind-boggling, to say the least, and this from a government that draws its support from workers' wages and votes. One can only assume that our policymakers are a bunch of incompetent so-called intellectuals who haven't got a clue of what goes on in the real world of industrial labour."

The reason he worded that so strongly is because I think he felt at the time—it's an initial reaction to a tax—that indeed this was going to have a very detrimental effect on the automotive industry and on the jobs of auto workers. As an individual who is prepared to express himself in that way, in a colourful fashion, a forthright fashion, he made that observation.

I think things have cooled down somewhat since then. As I say, the Treasurer made a modification to the tax,

which was welcomed by some. I don't think the modification was sufficient to make it a tax that could be supported by the opposition, but it was a step in the right direction, in my view, and I commend all of those who made representations. I asked several questions in the House, as did others, so that provides some influence on the government, but I think it's important that people outside the House—the Canadian Auto Workers union and the companies that, almost together, made representations—had an effect on the government.

I hope, with the arguments I have proposed today and yesterday in this debate, that the government would reconsider this tax. I've personally indicated to the Treasurer, as I did yesterday as well, that I was happy to see that he did not proceed with the new tax that had been suggested by the NDP tax commission. I think it would have been an inappropriate time. I know the goal of it is enviable. My friend the Minister of the Environment is here today, and I say to her in a practical sense that a lot of things are really hard to accomplish, particularly in the midst of a recession. I don't envy the difficult circumstances she faces as budgets are cut throughout the government, and what you'd like to have happen can't happen because there are other ministers who say we must get the economy rolling and so on.

But one measure that could have an immediate impact on the environment, as I've contended on many occasions, is having people replace their old clunkers of cars with new vehicles. I hope the government would follow that proposal. I hope, in addition to not proceeding with third reading, that they would remove the sales tax on new cars to be sold in the province for a temporary period. I hope they would undertake other measures that would ensure that nothing the government was going to do would be detrimental to the automotive industry, that we would have continued investment in Scarborough, St Catharines, Windsor and other areas.

I know Windsor has lost a substantial number of jobs as well over the years. We've had some good news in Oakville and in Windsor of some replacement jobs for those that have been lost, and I think everybody welcomes that. I'd love to see that happening on a daily basis. Who knows? When the economy turns around, that might happen.

Until that does, I think the government should reconsider this tax. I hope a sufficient number of members of the government caucus will speak to the Treasurer and the Premier, speak to the advisers of the Premier, and suggest that this tax be abandoned. I suspect that this tax is being collected at present; usually what happens is that they collect the taxes based on the fact that the bill is going to pass. I don't know whether we can give rebates to those people, but certainly a discontinuation of the collection of this tax would be at least something to be recommended.

In summation, may I make the following suggestion: There's an Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy under the auspices of the Ministry of the Environment. That round table looks at both the economic benefits and the environmental benefits to the province of Ontario of any measures to be taken or policies to be followed. For once, I can see a very practical environmental step forward and an economic step forward at the same time: By having

everyone purchase new vehicles, or as many people as possible purchase new vehicles, we help the economy; we help the automotive industry particularly, and jobs there, with the spinoff effects, are very beneficial to the whole economy.

Second, we help the environment: The quality of air would improve significantly if there were big sales of automobiles in this province, and fuel efficiency would improve considerably. That would be in keeping with the stated goals of the government in terms of both fuel efficiency and pollution control in the province.

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I hope everyone recognizes that there isn't a tax that goes into anything other than the consolidated revenue fund. There are people out there who actually believe that taxes governments levy go to specific purposes. I notice the New Democratic Party, having been elected now for 18 months, has not ensured that all the money collected by the tire tax, which was implemented for that purpose, goes in fact to deal with that environmental measure. I thought they were going to be different. I said to the Treasurer, who implemented this tax, "I believe if the New Democratic Party were in power and had control of the tire tax, it would quickly ensure that every penny collected from that tire tax would be applied to dealing with tire recycling and with the tire problem."

But it hasn't happened. I support the Minister of the Environment on that. I know she would like to see that happen. I know how the Treasurer used to say, "It's all going into the environment." That's what they would say. But we all know it all goes into the consolidated revenue fund, just as the lottery revenues all go into the consolidated revenue fund.

**Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Government House Leader):** Our Treasurer listens to our Minister of the Environment.

**Mr Bradley:** I'm provoked into a slight diversion from my regular remarks by the member for Windsor-Riverside who talks about relations between ministers of the Environment and treasurers. The Minister of the Environment should know that within the Ministry of Treasury there is a cell that is devoted to ensuring that the Ministry of the Environment does not have pre-eminent influence over the government.

I saw an example of this when the previous Treasurer, a friend of yours and mine, Mr Speaker, tried so hard to get project X through the government. I fought him on this and he fought with me on this. The government did not proceed. Lo and behold, it was announced by a combination of the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Municipal Affairs, side by side, talking about elbowing aside the environmental assessment process and easing the environmental process for approvals, and both with a smile on their face.

I know what it's like. I have empathy with the Minister of the Environment having to fight those battles that are to be fought with treasurers and ministers of Municipal Affairs and others in the province.

I did not want to divert far. The Speaker has been very kind in allowing me to divert just gently with that. But I did want to tell the people of Ontario and the people of this Legislature that all taxes go into one pot, the consolidated revenue fund.

We have what is essentially a tax measure here; a tax grab, if I wanted to use more colourful language, by the Treasurer. I know he needs the money; I know he wants the money. In 18 months now, we've had 23 tax increases by the new government. This would be a chance for them to show there are only 22 instead of 23, and they would be applauded by many people in Ontario. I put it in the context of the deepest recession we've experienced since the 1930s. I put it in the context of unprecedented competition from offshore and other places in North America as this tax is implemented in Ontario.

So I implore the government and I implore everyone on the governing side to reconsider this tax, to not proceed with third reading of this particular bill. There's a chance for a conversion on the road to, if not Damascus, Kapuskasing or somewhere in the province. There is a chance for the government to earn the praise of the opposition.

I assure you, Mr Speaker, if this government did not proceed with third reading, I would personally rise in the House to commend the Treasurer and the Premier of this province for being enlightened people. I would give that assurance. It's on the record now that I would be prepared to do so. I would not say, "Sound the bugles of retreat." I would not say they had been battered into a new position. I would say it was an enlightened new policy on behalf of the government of Ontario, that it had listened to the opposition; that it had listened to the Canadian Auto Workers; that it had listened to the automotive companies; that it had listened to so many in the province who want to see this tax removed and to see a revitalization of the automotive industry.

So I say, as I come close to the conclusion of my remarks—the member for Carleton is patiently waiting. He will have a very good speech. Actually, he thinks I've been up longer than 15 minutes. I don't think I have. There were a lot of petitions which were presented while you were out of the room. But I assure the member for Carleton that I want to leave sufficient time for him to deal with this issue, because it's something that's near and dear to him as well as a tax measure.

So to all of you, through the Speaker, to all of you in the government caucus, I urge you to use the same pressure you're using on other issues, have a full debate within caucus on this; insist that the Treasurer and the Premier and the other perpetrators of this tax stand before you to answer the questions you would have and to accept the representations you would make on behalf of withdrawing this tax.

Mr Speaker, you are neutral in terms of political affiliation as you sit in the chair, but I know that your riding and the people of your riding would appreciate the removal of this tax, and it would be beneficial for all of us in the province of Ontario.

I have faith in our system to the extent that I believe people can change their minds. I know my colleagues in

the Niagara Peninsula in their heart of hearts, as the Premier would say, probably agree with what I'm saying and would hope that there would be a change in attitude on the part of the government.

Withdraw this tax. You, the government, will earn the applause of the entire province. If you do not withdraw it, you put another nail in the coffin of the automotive industry in the province of Ontario.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I thank the member for St Catharines for his contribution, and invite questions or comments. The member for Durham Centre has two minutes.

**Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre):** I listened with great interest to the member for St Catharines. Like himself, I represent an area which is a great beneficiary of the auto industry.

I think many of the issues he brought up have a great deal of merit. I want, however, to point out to him a slight error in his speech. He referred to the NDP Fair Tax Commission. The Fair Tax Commission of course is not a part of the New Democratic Party. It is not a part even of the Treasurer's arm of government, but rather has an arm's-length relationship.

When he speaks of the environmental working group of that, he would, I'm sure, be aware that many of the people who sat on that are about as far from the New Democratic Party as the member opposite is. My guess is that perhaps he's not familiar with the idea of an arm's-length relationship between government and an advisory or consultative body.

Certainly the Minister of the Environment has established a couple of groups like that; for example, the Interim Waste Authority, and Bill 143 which established that body. It will establish a fair process in terms of selection of waste sites in the greater Toronto area.

The whole issue the member brought up in terms of faith in the system is one which our government is going to have a great deal of difficulty re-encouraging, because of course there has been a tremendous blow to a sense of faith in the system.

I would again remind the member that perhaps the Treasurer did not choose to accept the recommendations of the Fair Tax Commission's working group, and I think that has been to the benefit of areas like his own and my own.

**The Speaker:** Questions or comments?

**Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale):** I listened to the member for St Catharines, and I do know that he makes ultimate sense. One of the major points he finally got across to all of us yesterday and today was that this tax is really a tax on the auto workers, and essentially the question to be asked is, will this tax do anything at all to increase the sales of cars or will it indeed do the opposite?

**Hon Mr Cooke:** Sales are up this year.

**Mr Ruprecht:** While the House leader is saying that sales are up this year, the tax has not yet been implemented.

**Hon Mr Cooke:** Yes, it was. It's been in for over a year.

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**Mr Ruprecht:** We understand that indeed the centre of our economic recovery must necessarily rest on the fact that we need to sell more cars, in fact the whole recovery system must be based in Ontario on the automobile industry and if that isn't done, then it's obvious the recovery will have a setback. If this tax is designed by some strange reason to ensure that there's cleaner air and is designed to do something for the environment, there are other measures to do it. There are ways that we can establish some kind of a reporting mechanism or there are other ways to do this.

To make a long story short, let me simply say this. If the auto workers are being taxed, if the economic recovery cannot take place simply because there are too few cars that are not going to be sold, then I think this is the wrong tax at the wrong time.

**Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview):** Just to follow on the point that the member for Parkdale made before I address a couple of the points that were made by the member for St Catharines, I guess because they want more cars and more emissions and more pollution, that's why they introduced the commercial concentration tax, if you remember, a little while back, so that people would continue to drive their cars to work, instead of taking the TTC, parking their cars and taking more efficient, environmentally efficient means to work etc.

The member for St Catharines talks about tax increases, and I think it's important to note that tax increases are a very difficult thing for any party, whether it's an opposition party or a government party, to deal with and implement. I certainly feel this way, and I suspect that many of my colleagues in the NDP also feel this way, that they wouldn't want to go to any tax increases whatsoever. In fact, if you note our budget and our budget statements over the last several years, you'll note that in the first budget statement—in fact not in the budget but just before the budget—we introduced what was called at the time Bill 1, where we separated the calculation of the PST from the GST. What that did was it saved Ontario taxpayers about \$700 million. We kept that money in their pockets.

You'll note that in the last budget statement we stayed away from middle-income earners and working people by not raising their personal income taxes in one of the worse recessions in this province's history. I say that to the Liberals when they talk about their 33 tax increases over five years.

**The Speaker:** Questions or comments?

**Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton):** I would like to address a number of the points that were made by the member for St Catharines in his very eloquent speech earlier today.

One of the things I'd like to do before I go to that is comment on the member for Downsview's reference to the commercial concentration tax as being an incentive for people to drive their cars into the city. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact it was the opposite. Because of the commercial concentration tax, the parking lots actually had fees that went up and fewer people drove their cars in because they had to pay a larger amount for parking. So

contrary to what he said, that is not what the purpose was and it certainly had the opposite result.

When we talk about the gas guzzler tax, one of the things you have to look at is whether this is actually going to encourage people to buy fuel-efficient vehicles. When the Liberals first introduced another version of the gas guzzler tax, it only addressed those vehicles which actually were great guzzlers of gas and which should not be representative of what people are driving on the roads in these environmentally sensitive times.

But what the Treasurer has done, even with the revised gas guzzler tax, is hit a lot of vehicles that are actually quite fuel-efficient. I just bought a General Motors car yesterday that was built in Oshawa, and I'm glad to say I noticed on this table that mine is a fuel-efficient car, and I got the lowest of the taxes, \$75. That being said, I think this government should rethink this bill. They should withdraw it and go back to the drawing-board.

**The Speaker:** The member for St Catharines, with two minutes to summarize.

**Mr Bradley:** I always appreciate the comments and questions which arise after a lengthy address, and I want to address a couple of those if I may. The first is that I've never referred to it as the NDP Fair Tax Commission; I've only referred to it as the NDP tax commission because the word "fair" is a word which is used by the government to attempt to portray something different. That's fine, they can do that, but I don't use that terminology.

What I want to implore the members of the government to be aware of is that they should not simply be apologists for the Treasurer and the Premier and the members of the cabinet. If they're in the cabinet, they have to support the policy; I understand that. I don't expect any member of the cabinet to be outside saying, "This tax should be withdrawn." They have to support that. But there is a unique opportunity, I think a growing opportunity within this Legislature and within parliaments around Canada, for people to be a little more independent-minded in their thinking.

If they're looking to get into the cabinet and they don't want to perhaps offend the Premier and don't want to offend the Treasurer and the movers and shakers in the Premier's office, I understand that they may not want to be openly critical of the tax. All I'm asking of members of the government is that behind the closed doors of the caucus room they take advantage of the opportunity to direct some tough questions to the cabinet about this, particularly to the Treasurer and the Minister of Revenue, and that they attempt to encourage them to abandon this tax.

I think they can certainly earn a lot of the credit. Some will say the opposition influenced them, some will say people outside the government influenced them, but they will know in their own minds—in the Premier's favourite words, in their own heart of hearts—that they have in fact had an influence on government policy.

I see a lot of people here who were apologists for no one in their life before they got into this Legislature, and I simply urge them to have that same degree of zeal in protecting the auto workers in the province, in protecting the

people of the province and in persuading the government not to proceed with third reading of this tax.

**The Speaker:** Further debate? The member for Carleton.

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** As the Treasury and Revenue critic for my party, I want to express at the outset that we will be opposing this bill on third reading, as we did on second reading. That is because we just don't believe that additional taxes on gasoline are productive or are good for the Ontario economy. There are a whole host of reasons which have been rhymed off by preceding speakers, so I don't want to bore the Legislature going through them, but I think cross-border shopping is a significant issue. It's an issue which, in my view, has been ignored by the present government in terms of its taxing policy.

I want to talk in more general terms about two or three issues. One issue relates to the fact that this bill in its original form, when introduced some years ago, was in fact more sound in terms of supporting itself or justifying itself in the environmental sense, because when Bill 130 was originally introduced it had the tax that was levied against a new vehicle proportional to the amount of gasoline that vehicle used.

The original intent of the bill was, if you used, for instance, less than nine litres of gas for 100 kilometres, you were taxed a certain amount, and it didn't matter whether you were driving a car or you were driving a sports vehicle; it didn't matter whether you were driving a passenger car or a jeep or a truck or a Mercedes-Benz or one of these sportier vehicles. Therefore I guess there could be some justification for the government saying that the motivation behind this tax was environmental, conservation-oriented. But then came the loud outcry of the Ontario Federation of Labour, our motor vehicle parts producers and our motor vehicle plants, which argued that this bill was going to put a lot of auto workers out of work.

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What was the government's reaction? The government's reaction was to look at what was produced in Canada and then redraft the bill sort of in a sneaky way to exempt from the very strict requirements of the former bill those vehicles that were made here and to create a new class of vehicle called a sport utility vehicle. It was really a shameful hiding of the fact that this government was protecting Ontario and Canadian interests versus other interests and abandoning the whole concept of a gas guzzler tax being related to conservation or environmental issues.

I say to the government that when it sold itself out in amending Bill 130 it really showed its hand. As the St Catharines Standard said in its June 26 editorial, a tax is a tax, and what was a regressive tax on Ontario's troubled auto industry remains a regressive tax but is spread over a wider range of vehicles than was originally proposed, and the main victim is still our own industry. What the government really did by revamping Bill 130 was to show its hand. They wanted more money and they thought they could trick the public by saying that this is related to energy and conservation and this is related to environmental issues. It really is not.

The other thing the public should know is that the money from the gas guzzler tax doesn't go into a special account to deal with environmental matters. The question often asked in polls is, "Would you pay more taxes for the environment?" A lot of people will say, "Yes, I'd pay more taxes for the environment." Politicians know this. Governments know this. The last government introduced the tire tax, as you can remember. But people out there should know that the gas guzzler tax doesn't go into a special bank account to deal with environmental issues. It goes into the same bank account your personal income tax goes into, it goes into the same bank account sales tax goes into, and it goes into the same bank account land transfer tax and all the other taxes go into.

This whole idea of duping the public into thinking that maybe it's okay if the government introduced a new tax if it put an environmental tag on it was introduced by the former Liberal government under the auspices of the previous speaker, the member for St Catharines, who brought in the famous tire tax. You remember, Mr Speaker, we had great speeches in the budget that the reason for the \$5-a-tire tax was to take care of the disposal or waste of these tires. We've learned since then that the money that was taken from the tire tax went into the Treasurer's general bank account and the Treasurer actually never spent anywhere near equal the amount that was collected under the guise of the tire tax on disposal of tires or dealing with the whole waste question dealing with waste tires.

Another trick that was tried by the former government, Mr Speaker, was through the Ontario Lottery Corp. You can remember that there was this new lottery introduced about a month before the last election. I think it was just a coincidence. I don't think it could have possibly been planned that the former Minister of the Environment got together with the former Minister of Tourism and Recreation, who runs the lottery business here. I don't think he could have possibly thought about introducing the Cleansweep lottery.

I don't know if you remember it, but I used to drive down the Gardiner Expressway here in Toronto. There was a big sign there with Cleansweep. The television ad started in July, I believe, and then in August 1990 we saw the wonderful things this new lottery was going to do. It was going to clean up. Actually, from the TV ads, I thought this lottery was going to clean up all Ontario. It looked that good. It really looked that good. But actually they didn't get bought on that one. Eventually Cleansweep really didn't relate to cleaning up the environment of Ontario; it related to cleaning up the Liberal government which invented the Cleansweep. It sort of swept them out of office.

It was kind of ironic that after it had swept them out of office, the lottery corporation withdrew that lottery concept from TV. All the money wasted on the ads on TV, which was a lot of money—I can remember trying to turn on the TV after coming in from campaigning and all I could see was Cleansweep, Ontario was wonderful and all the rest of it.

At any rate, that was another example of a government trying to set up an advertising program based on the fact that it was going to do something with the taxpayers' dollar.

But in fact there's no commitment to do anything with that taxpayers' dollar. I really believe that the next Provincial Auditor should rein in a Treasurer or another minister who brings in what I call a misrepresentation of the facts as to where that money is going to end up. Again we have, in terms of this gas guzzler tax, another example of a tax which is supposed to be going towards environmental matters. It's supposed to help us clean up our environment, but there isn't anything which guarantees that. It's going into the same bank account, as I said, as everything else.

I think I've made my two major points. I wanted first of all to say that as a treasury critic I'm very much concerned with the amount of hype that's going in a lot of political circles with regard to the introduction of new taxes. Another one, just in passing before I wind up, was the employer health tax, which was introduced by the last Liberal government. They seemed to introduce this concept of naming taxes but not really putting the money into that particular endeavour. The employer health tax has nothing to do with health. It has to do with collecting more money, because it goes into the same bank account as the commercial concentration tax, our personal income tax, sales tax and indeed the gas guzzler tax.

They all go into the same bank account. Each year the Treasurer decides, unilaterally or with his cabinet colleagues, that he's going to take this much out of the bank account for that, this much out for that. He's not bound by the fact that \$2 billion may have come from the employer health tax so he must spend that \$2 billion on health. He's not bound by the fact that the gas guzzler tax produced—I don't know what the figure is—\$300 or \$400 million to put that money into environmental purposes. He can spend that on anything he wants—social programs. He can spend it on giveaways to whomever he should choose.

I think it's time the Provincial Auditor got to the bottom of this. Unless the Treasurer is willing to dedicate revenue, unless he's willing to put it in a separate bank account, he should not be allowed to name a tax which is misrepresentative of where that money may enter. That's basically the point I wanted to make.

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The last thing I want to say is that I'm very sorry for the border communities this government has chosen, through this tax, to penalize further. When we compare the combined federal and provincial taxes in Ontario, we have approximately 15 cents of taxes per litre provincial tax and about seven cents federal tax, making somewhere around 21 to 22 cents total tax per litre on the consumer in Ontario.

Go across into Michigan and I believe it's seven or eight cents total taxes per litre of gasoline and, of course, that converts into gallons over there. On a litre-per-litre basis we are taxing in this province about 13 to 14 cents per litre more than the state of Michigan which of course we're competing with in terms of shopping, commerce, tourism etc.

When government makes taxation policy it can't, as the Treasurer did one year ago, turn a blind eye to what's happening around it. If he does so, he takes the consequences, which have been shown in our border communities.

I think it's callous disregard for the communities in that area.

I want to sum up by saying that the debate on this bill has gone on far too long. In 15 years of being here it's the first time we have been actually carrying on debate in the Legislature with regard to bills from a previous budget after the subsequent budget was introduced. I don't blame the government in particular. I blame the Legislature as a whole for being unable to wrestle with that particular issue. I only hope all parties will take that into consideration when dealing with budget bills that are going to emanate from the April 30, 1992, budget.

I do not think it is fair to the public to hold up legislation this long and I say, in particular, our opposition parties will be more reasonable with regard to the taxation legislation coming from the Treasurer emanating out of the 1992 budget.

**The Speaker:** I thank the member for Carleton for his contribution and invite questions or comments.

**Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South):** I just want to pick up on the last point the member for Carleton raised in regard to this being the first time—I think he said in his speech—he had seen a government debating a budget bill from the previous year, the previous year's budget, at this point.

I got up at one point in this debate and pointed out to the House that this is obviously not the first time. This happened on a number of occasions. I know, for example, we came in and debated budgetary items from 1987, 1988 and 1989 that were not passed in those particular years because of difficulties they were having in the Legislature trying to get them through. They were passed on to subsequent years. So I think you need to clarify that is not the first time it has happened.

**The Speaker:** Further questions or comments?

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** I think, first, we should enlighten the general public about a few issues that have been enlightened by the member for Carleton. As Treasury critic in this party, I feel he has offered sensible and salient points that need to be addressed, from the cross-border shopping issue to the feasibility of increasing taxes to the car retailer and right on down the line to the auto worker.

His insights have been well documented and well researched. I know full well that the member for Carleton has spent many hours on many of these taxation issues and comes at it with a very knowledgeable and what I will say is a forthright approach. It's not simply partisan politics. He's offered what I consider to be reasonable alternatives to the tax increase and it would behoove the government to listen to some of the offers made by the opposition. I think the member for Carleton is clearly one of those members who needs to be listened to.

**The Speaker:** Further questions or comments? Seeing none, the member for Carleton has up to two minutes to respond.

**Mr Sterling:** I want to thank the member for Cochrane South. He is correct that there have been budget bills which have dragged past subsequent years. I believe in

some cases it has been more in error than because of what has happened in the Legislature. I don't think, in terms of two major budget initiatives as we have had here, that we have had two bills, Bill 86 and Bill 130, which have dragged on to subsequent years. I don't condone that practice. What I say is that all members of the Legislature, for whatever reasons, have to take responsibility for that.

I don't think it's right for us to introduce a tax on May 1, 1991, or around that period of time, and then retroactively put it into law a year and a half later. If we have done it before, and I think we have—as I acknowledged, the member for Cochrane South has corrected me and he is right—I do want to say that I don't approve of what has happened in the past, but it has been much rarer in the past. I think in most cases it hasn't been a tax which affects so many people as in this case. I think it has dealt with things like airplane fuel and something of that nature, which really didn't impact on the general public.

Before I sit down, I just want to note that this is the last day for our pages and I just want to thank Amanda Sully from Carp, who came down here from my riding. All the pages have done a wonderful job this term. Thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** Further debate?

**Mr Bisson:** I just want to take five or 10 minutes on this particular bill. I think the member for Carleton raised the point, if I understood him correctly, of trying to get this through the Legislature as quickly as possible. I agree with him there.

Interjection.

**Mr Bisson:** It's only been a year and a half, exactly.

Interjection.

**Mr Bisson:** I'm listening to my House leader. I just want to take an opportunity to clarify a couple of points that we've listened to in this debate all the way through.

First, on the whole question of taxation, I guess we could get into another debate at another time. I think I mentioned on Bill 86 last week, when we were debating here in the House, the whole question about taxation and about services that governments must provide. If I understand, a lot of times there are convoluted messages coming from the opposition. On the one hand, they tell us they want us to spend money on one question; in the next question they want us to save money. I guess the only thing I'd have to say to that is I wish they would get their message straight so that they can give direction to the government. That's what they're here to do and I wish they would have that message straight. It's quite confusing to listen at times to one question going one way and the other going the other way.

Back to the debate: On the question of the taxation on the fuel conservation tax, there are just a couple of things I want to leave. There was an assumption, I guess, a sort of point made in the debate. I was listening to one of the previous members speak in regard to how this would affect the Canadian manufacturing industry that makes automobiles here in Ontario. I have here before me a list of all the cars that are applicable to this tax that are made in Ontario, in North America, for that matter, or in Japan or Europe.

Here's the whole list. If you take a look at the list, some 89% of the cars that are made here in Ontario follow the minimum portion of that tax. The government was conscious, when it was putting this together, that it didn't want to put its particular industry at peril. But on the other hand, at the same time we need to find a mechanism in order to encourage manufacturers to build cars that are more fuel-efficient in the long run.

I think we can look back and most of us can remember that during the gas crisis we had in 1976, I think it was, there was a real shortage of fuel because of what was happening within the Arab states in regard to the supply of oil to North America. Prior to that, the North American car manufacturing sector was making cars that were very inefficient on gas. We had the big, old V-8s—very heavy, very difficult on gas—but we consumers in Ontario didn't mind.

We didn't mind as consumers in North America, because we went out and bought those cars and at the time we paid some 20 cents or 30 cents or 40 cents a gallon for that particular gas. We really didn't have a care. But when the crunch came—and that's the point I'm trying to make—where the price of gas started to go up, it put the manufacturers of automobiles in a position where they had to compete with foreign producers, so they had to make cars that became more fuel-efficient.

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Was that bad? I think in the long run most people would say that is good. You can now buy something like a Chevy Lumina or a Buick LeSabre, still very large cars, very solid cars, cars made in North America that I think are good quality but have gas consumption far, far better they did than 10 or 15 years ago. The point is that if the consumers, by their purchasing power, had not put them in the position of making these cars more fuel-efficient, they wouldn't be around. The point is what we've ended up with. There are cars that are better quality and cars that are cheaper on gas.

If you look at the numbers, as I said a little while ago, 89% of the cars made here in Ontario are under the minimum portion of this tax compared to 63% of those cars that are foreign-made. If you look at Buick as a good example, the Century 2.5-litre—basically all the Buick cars fit under the minimum portion of the tax of \$75. I think if you're purchasing a car for some \$15,000, \$18,000 or \$20,000, depending on the model, \$75 is not going to scare you away from that sale.

I would agree with most members in this Legislature and most people in the province that if given our choice and given our druthers none of us would like to pay taxes. I don't think that's an issue; I think all of us agree with that. The reality, on the other hand, is that the people of the province say to us: "We want services. We want hospitals. We want roads. We want schools. We want day care." We need all these things in order to live within the society we call North America, we call Ontario. We as a government have a responsibility to provide those services to the people. Yes, we collect taxes, but for those taxes there's some value.

I really have a difficult time, and I'm sure members opposite have the same difficulty, when you listen to the debate on taxation. Nobody will argue otherwise than trying to find a fairer tax system and bring those taxes down. Nobody would argue with that. Yes, we can find efficiencies in the system. But to say that on the one hand we should bring all the taxes down but on the other hand we should increase expenditures, excuse me, you don't have to be a mathematician to figure out that's a fairly difficult exercise.

Just to go through some of the other cars, the Chrysler cars, for example, most of these which are made here in Ontario: again, the Daytona, the 5th Avenue, the LeBaron, the Imperial, all fall within the \$75 provision of this tax. Chevrolet: the Beretta, the Camaro, the Caprice, the Cavalier, the Corsica, the Lumina—\$75.

Which cars are affected by the higher increase? Obviously those cars that are not as efficient on gas. If you take a look at the numbers of cars that come in at the next portion of tax, which is \$250, 7% of the cars made in Ontario fall underneath that particular provision compared to some 10% of the foreign cars. If you look at the numbers, the numbers actually favour the Ontario market and favour those cars produced here in Ontario.

Let's look at some of the foreign cars, the BMWs, which are not made here in North America, not made here in Ontario. Sure, they fall in the \$1,200 provisions of the tax, the \$250 provision of the tax. The M5, for example, is \$1,200; the 850iA is \$1,200; a couple of them fall under the \$75.

If we go through this list and look at other cars—the Lamborghini. I couldn't afford one of those. I don't think most of the members in this Legislature can afford it, but \$2,400. Take a look at the Mazda 626/MX. It falls under the \$250. They have some cars that fall under \$75.

The point I'm making is that when you look at this list and the cars on it, clearly the majority of the cars made here in North America, here in Ontario, 89% of them fall under the minimum provision of the tax. There are some cars, yes, that fall otherwise, at the \$250 level and some of them even at \$1,200. If you take a look at the list, only 2% of those cars produced in Ontario fall in the \$1,200 category. As far as the other portions of the tax are concerned, none of them does. What I'm saying is that the government was fairly careful, when it put this together, to make sure we didn't put at jeopardy, by and large, those cars made here in Ontario, because the Ontario market seems to have its niche in producing cars that are fairly efficient on gas.

What most people in Ontario would recognize and support, I think, is that we need to find ways within the automotive manufacturing sector to make cars that are more efficient on gas, that get more miles to the gallon and that the consumer who is the driver of that car has fewer operating expenses to operate that car. Clearly what this does is put the manufacturer of the car in a position where it wants to make a car that's even more efficient on gas. The more efficient it is, the less you pay. At some points you actually get a credit if you can bring it down to a certain threshold level.

If I were to listen to the members of the opposition and not to look at any of this information, if I were John and

Joe Public sitting at home without these lists in front of me, I would think all the cars made in Ontario fell under the maximum or medium provisions of the tax. Clearly, that's not true. Again, 89% of those passenger cars made here in Ontario fall within the minimum portion of the tax, which is the \$75 limit, and 7% of those domestic cars in the passenger class service fall within the \$250 limit.

Again I say, if I'm going to buy a car that's \$20,000 or \$25,000 and I'm paying an extra \$75 or \$250 on the car, that's not what's going to scare me away. I'll buy the argument that people would like not to pay any taxes. In a perfect world that would be great, but it's not that way. People demand services.

If you take a look at the sport and utility vehicles made here in Ontario, that ratio is much the same.

That is the point I would like to make. I'm not going to take any more time in the debate. I'd welcome any comments on what I've had to say and I'll cede the floor for that.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** I wish to thank the honourable member for Cochrane South. Questions and/or comments.

**Ms Poole:** I would like to respond to the comments of the member for Cochrane South. I'll just get the Breath Saver out of my mouth first.

The member for Cochrane South talked about the need for raising taxes, the fact that we have a lot of services we have to pay for in Ontario, such as hospitals, schools and child care, and taxation is obviously the way we do that. I certainly agree with him on that point, but the point I'd like to make is that this legislation was billed by the government, by the Minister of the Environment, as an environmental tax. This was going to be a tax that would benefit the environment, but if you look at where the revenues from this tax are going, they are not being dedicated to the environment, they are going into general revenue.

When this tax was first introduced by the Liberals, it was a mechanism to deal with the worst of the gas guzzlers. At that stage, I think it generated about \$8 million worth of revenue. It was anticipated that once it was revived, this tax would generate somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$45 million.

You could defend this if you were saying the revenues were going to the environment or if the revenues were really going to solve some of our environmental problems, but that's not what it is. This is a tax grab and it cannot be painted as an environmental tax. It's not an environmentally friendly tax from that perspective, because you are covering a vast majority of the vehicles in this province.

I say to the member for Cochrane South who represents Matheson, where I come from, that northerners use many of the vehicles that would have one of the higher taxes, because they are heavy-duty vehicles. I think he should take this into consideration.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further questions and/or comments.

**Mr Sterling:** For the member for Cochrane South, a member of the NDP party, to lecture the people on this side about us calling on them to spend more money, after having listened to the NDP party over the last 14 years—

**Hon Mr Cooke:** It's not the NDP party.

**Mr Sterling:** —the NDP members of the Legislature—ask for more and more money, without regard to taxation, is totally beyond comprehension for me to understand. That this member can stand up righteously and say we are guilty of it makes me wonder where the member for Cochrane South was for the last 15 years. Was he not a member of the New Democratic Party? Did he never read Hansard? Did he never watch Bob Rae? Did he never watch David Cooke? Did he never watch Ruth Grier in this House demand that former governments spend more and more money and then complain every time a tax was introduced? How is he so righteous? I don't know.

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**The Acting Speaker:** I want to remind all members that when we refer to honourable members, we should be referring to them, with respect, by the names of their constituencies and not by their names. Further questions and/or comments?

**Mr Ruprecht:** If I were to listen to the debate only from the member for Cochrane South, I would think he makes some sense. I might even be convinced if I were only to listen to him and no one else. But let's look at the facts.

The member for Cochrane South said the right thing in terms of raising taxes. He says, "Sure, we have to provide day care services, we have to provide housing, we have to provide for welfare, we have to obviously provide for a number of services." But at the same time, let's have a look at what an additional tax does to increase prices.

I'm looking especially to the member for Cochrane South. The reason many of our Canadian citizens are going south, not to Cochrane South but south across the border to the United States, to purchase products—and we ask ourselves, what can we do to stop that haemorrhage?—is that the kind of products that are being provided in the US, Mr Speaker, you would agree even being non-partisan, are obviously much cheaper than products we can produce right here in Ontario.

Why is that? I'm not saying it is totally the fault of this NDP government that the prices are being raised out of reach for most of our citizens, but certainly we have to look at our competitiveness across the broad range of products we are making in Ontario. I might add, we should be proud of our manufacturing base, but when you look at tax after tax after tax, whether it's provincial tax, concentration tax, income tax, we know we are unable to compete in the international marketplace.

**The Acting Speaker:** We can accommodate one further participant. Seeing none, the honourable member for Cochrane South has two minutes in response.

**Mr Bisson:** I'll start with the member for Parkdale in regard to the whole question of cross-border shopping. That is an interesting debate. I wish I had about two hours on that one.

The point is that what's happened over the years is that successive governments—the Liberal government that was here for some five years from 1985 to 1990 and Tory governments before that for some 40 years and federal

governments of two stripes, Liberals and Tories—have built the tax regime we have here in Ontario and we have here in Canada.

For the members opposite to sit here and blame the NDP government for a tax regime that was tailor-made and built by both the Tories and Liberals, both in this Legislature and in the federal House, I have a difficult time with. I will just stop at that. I would love to get into a debate about that.

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** We will take it all back.

**Mr Bisson:** I see Mr Mahoney is taking it back—the member for whatever.

With regard to the member for Carleton, I wish I had written some notes because I was listening to what the member for Carleton was talking about. It was quite amusing. I won't make any comment because I guess it doesn't deserve any. I don't want to be mean, but I'm not going to get into that.

The member for Eglinton talked about the environmental tax, saying that if this is truly an environmental tax, what the government should be doing is taking that money directly and giving it to my colleague the Minister of the Environment in order to set up programs for the environment.

Remember the tire tax, Mr Speaker, introduced by the Liberals? Did that money go into the environment? It went into general revenue. That's the way the government operates. It collects taxes at various levels and then takes the money and puts it into general revenue and then divvies the money back out to the various ministries.

Interjection.

**Mr Bisson:** Yes, maybe we should go to that system one day and that would be something that would be interesting to debate in the Legislature. But much the same in the private sector: When I'm in the private sector and I make a profit selling a stereo or a television or a videocassette recorder, I don't put it in different bank accounts. I put it into my bank account. I pay my bills and what I have left over at the end I put into another account for a rainy day, much as the government does.

With that, I end the debate.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further debate on third reading of Bill 130.

**Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin):** I appreciate the opportunity today to have a little bit of time to discuss Bill 130, the gas guzzler tax. As I was thinking about this, I cast my mind back to well over a year ago when this was introduced as a budget measure. Back then, it was quite different. The rates were quite different, they applied to different vehicles in different ways.

I can recall, and I think some of the members over here will recall, that following the introduction of that budget one year ago, the comments initially about this tax from the labour unions in this province were quite neutral. As a matter of fact, I think they were positive. But as the CAW thought about this for a while and Bob White, who was initially supportive, thought about it for a while, it became quite apparent that he had to go and call on the Treasurer and Mr Rae and change the bill. I believe that was produc-

tive. I think it was productive that the bosses of this government went to see their servants and got a change in this bill.

However, I think it's important to note, as a northern MPP, as somebody who represents a northern riding, as somebody who is here to share the concerns of my constituents and the constituents across the north, we have to look at what the provisions of this bill mean to the people I represent. More than that, we have to look at what the combination of taxes that were introduced in that budget one year ago represent to the people I represent.

We know this government found it necessary to increase the taxes on gasoline by 30%, 3.4 cents in one year, the largest gasoline tax raise, to my knowledge anyway, that affected my constituents. On top of that, they come with a tax that if they purchase a new vehicle which is likely to be more fuel-efficient, likely to be a lot better than the car they were driving in terms of fuel efficiency and therefore the environment, they're going to be penalized. So what you do is make it more expensive to drive a car in the first place and then you try to discourage them from buying it. I think there's logic there, but I'm not sure where.

So what have we got? We get taxes. The first level is \$75. I'll tell you, I know a lot of car dealers in my area; I also know a lot of people who buy cars. In our area, in the rural north, people tend to buy larger vehicles. Why do they do that? As you would know, Mr Speaker, in the north we have greater distances to drive, our roads are often not quite as good. As a matter of fact, some of the country roads in my neck of the woods are really not very good, in the wintertime especially.

**Ms Poole:** What about the weather?

**Mr Brown:** "What about the weather?" the member for Eglinton says. Of course, we know that obviously we get more snow, obviously it's colder. The obvious choice for my constituents, for the people I serve, is to buy a larger vehicle. That's the choice really you have.

I'm not just suggesting this. I know this. You can just drive through downtown Mindemoya or through Manitowaning or you can choose to go over to Spanish on the shore, and you will see that these are the kinds of vehicles people choose. It's not because my constituents are less environmentally concerned; it's because you must do these things. It's a choice you have to make.

So we have a tax that unduly penalizes people who live in the north, and in the rural north especially. I ask Mr Laughren, the Treasurer, someone who represents the riding adjoining mine, a riding that is quite similar in geography, whether his constituents would think this is a fair way to approach the taxation in this province. I would suggest they would tell him the very same thing my constituents tell me: "This tax is unfair to us. We understand you have to tax, but we don't understand why the government needs to discriminate against people in the north."

I think Mr Laughren's constituents would say that. I think the Minister of Northern Development's constituents would tell her that. I think the constituents of the Minister of Natural Resources, whose riding is on the other side of

my riding, would tell him the same thing: "This tax discriminates against us. What did we do to deserve a 30% increase in gasoline tax, and on top of that, paying \$250 or more to buy the vehicle not that we want, but that we need?"

In my part of the world it's not uncommon for people to purchase so-called sport utility vehicles, four-by-fours. They're not a luxury; they're not so you can look good driving down Yonge Street on Saturday night. They are good and needed because that's what's demanded with our climate, our geography and, yes, our roads.

We might be able to understand that we will be penalized for having to drive bigger cars—

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I think, since we're debating important matters about taxation in this province, that the government should be keeping a quorum.

**The Acting Speaker:** Could the Clerk please check if we have a quorum present.

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals (Mr Alex D. McFedries):** A quorum is not present, Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker:** A quorum is not present. Call in the members.

The Acting Speaker ordered the bells rung.

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**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals:** A quorum is now present, Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker:** A quorum is now present. The honourable member for Algoma-Manitoulin may resume his participation in the debate on Bill 130.

**Mr Brown:** As I was saying, my constituents perhaps could understand why they had to pay 30% more for gasoline in terms of taxes and why they had to pay more money when they bought a new car than other people in other parts of this province pay. They maybe could understand that if the revenues were directed at northern roads.

I recall, Mr Speaker, as I'm sure you do and other members of this Legislature do who have been here for a little bit of time, when we listened to New Democrats in opposition. In opposition, New Democrats told us over and over in this place, told Conservative governments and Liberal governments, that what we needed was more spending on northern roads. "You take all this money out of the northern economy," they would say, "and you put back no asphalt." The cries and the anguish over this were tremendous.

I want to tell you, Mr Speaker, and I bet you didn't know, that they're spending less money on northern roads and highways than when former governments were in power. Yet they have the nerve to come here and tell us that we should pay more for our vehicles; we should pay more for our fuel. I can't make this add up.

If I had voted New Democrat in the last election—perish the thought—I would have been believing the north would be a parking lot within three years of them coming to government, because they were going to pave everything. They were literally going to pave everything. They promised they would four-lane—spend \$200 million a year, I think it was, on the Trans-Canada alone. But of course,

highways 69 and 11 in the northwestern part of the province were also going to be four-laned. The cost was no object.

You didn't have to raise taxes when other governments were there. They never worried about that. As a matter of fact, I don't recall them ever voting for any tax bill of any kind. But certainly you should spend the money. So for New Democrats now to come to us and say: "Yes, northerners, guess what? We're going to spend less money on your roads"—I asked the Minister of Northern Development at estimates, "How many kilometres of four-laning did you do last year?" She rose proudly in her seat and announced, I think, four kilometres. I said, "Where?"

**Mr Turnbull:** Three and a half.

**Mr Brown:** Three and a half, I'm told. Where was that? It was at Nobel, just north of Parry Sound. It's a 60-kilometre zone, a nice little piece of highway, but it wasn't what northerners thought would happen with an NDP government. We're looking in my part of the world at the four-laning of highways 69 and 17, and I hear nothing about it. There's nothing going on. I know members of our caucus have been urging that. Other members have been urging that. There's nothing, yet they come with a tax on vehicles that is aimed directly at northerners, as if they just targeted us and said, "You guys are going to pay the price."

I find that appalling from a government that had said exactly the opposite. They said they were for the north and yet they're spending less and less money in the north. They're helping our citizens less and less. We have the highest unemployment rate in the province. I represent Elliot Lake. Our unemployment rate is huge. I don't know the exact percentage, but when you lose 3,400 jobs out of 4,000 in the mining industry, your unemployment rate goes right through the roof.

I want somebody on the other side to talk a little bit about how this helps create jobs for these people. Tell me, how is adding taxes creating jobs for the people I serve, especially when they're not building roads? A lot of the people in Elliot Lake have trained on heavy equipment in the past year. You can't work in the heavy equipment field unless there's a road being built to work on. They're not building the roads. They're increasing our taxes on both fuel and vehicles, and we're upset.

To change gears for a moment, I want to tell you who else they're attacking. They're attacking people like me who have families. We cannot put our families in a Sprint. If you have four children and a spouse, you can't get them in a Sprint. It won't work. I think maybe we did it at university with another kind of car about that size, but I don't think you'd want to go very far.

There are many people in this province who didn't have, what is it, 1.9 children? Is that the average? We didn't. We had four.

**Ms Poole:** You did more than your share.

**Mr Brown:** I did more than my share, I'm told. I'm proud of them. But you can't put six people in a car that has the \$75 tax. It's \$250. And guess what? It costs a fair buck these days to raise four kids. It costs a lot of money

to raise four kids, I'm finding out, much to my chagrin. Here are the people in society least able as parents to afford the larger car and yet they're the ones who are going to pay \$250.

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I am standing here bewildered by this. As a northerner, it doesn't work for me. I can't understand it. There is no way this is what we thought a New Democratic government would have done. It is almost not conceivable. If you understand that there are families in this province with four or five children, maybe six, you're not going to get them into a vehicle that this particular tax is at least a little softer on.

So I stand here totally wondering what was on the Treasurer's mind, and I can only come to one conclusion. The Treasurer thought, "The province needs money and I'll grab it from those fat cats who are going to buy new cars." He didn't care about the people who make the cars.

If I think back—maybe it's back many years in Ontario—I remember that governments would actually take tax holidays on cars. Does anybody remember that, when they would drop the provincial sales tax for—

**Mr Turnbull:** When the Tories were in power, in the good old days.

**Mr Brown:** They would have a tax holiday, I'm told, back when the Conservatives were in power. Of course, they were there during the last recession, so we know who isn't governing during recessions.

I think it would have behooved the government to do some things to stimulate the economy. One of the big kind of fibs in this place is that there are only three ways to balance your books: to raise taxes, reduce spending or increase the deficit. But what they don't talk about is if you encourage the economy to grow, if you do things that increase employment, make the place a good place to invest, you get more taxes, not less. I think that's just common sense.

What the government has to do is cause this economy to get rolling again. Sometimes it's like a store. When things aren't going well, generally you don't put the price up; you have a sale. Maybe that's what we need to be thinking about in this province.

With those few remarks, I will take my seat. I would welcome the comments of other members.

**The Acting Speaker:** Questions and/or comments.

**Mr Ruprecht:** I listened of course to the comments by the member for Algoma-Manitoulin. The main point he raised is that northern Ontarians are paying more than we do in the south and that this government is taking it out on the north, that less is being spent on the roads that sometimes we drive on to get to Sudbury, Manitoulin, the Sault, Thunder Bay. Obviously, we need to increase taxes to pay for some of the services, but, as I had mentioned before, competitively the prices will be higher.

I am delighted to see the government House leader here today, because he does play an important role in cabinet decision-making and he might even be influencing the Treasurer on this. The question I ask today is on consultation. When this tax was introduced, what did the House

leader do? Did he say to the Treasurer, "Let's consult the very industry that is directly affected by this tax?" or did he say, "No, we're going to do it like we did it with Meech Lake"? I can only think of one issue where this possibly did happen, and that was Meech Lake and I think we made a mistake.

Obviously, when we introduce a tax and we make a promise to consult the people before we make a decision, we might get some help in terms of refining the decision, making it better so residents have an idea they're being listened to.

What happened here? What happened was that the exact opposite took place. The industry was not consulted, but rather the decision was made and forced upon that industry. I would only hope this government will not do that in the future.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further questions and/or comments?

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** I find the honourable members in the House kind of repetitious. I haven't heard a fresh thing out of the Liberals in so long that I begin to wonder how it is they have the courage to stand up and start talking. All they can do is get up and knock the government for trying to do something.

When you were in power, what did you do with David Peterson to tell him to do something right? I didn't see you standing up then speaking as eloquently about the Liberals, but now you can be so sanctimonious at the expense of the New Democrats. The poor people, they don't know what they're doing, and for you to come along and start beating up on such incompetents isn't really fair, because if they knew any better, they'd be standing up raising Cain and telling the real facts the way they are.

**Mr Ruprecht:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The member says the government doesn't know what it's doing. I think the government knows exactly what it's doing—

**The Acting Speaker:** That's a matter of opinion, not a point of order. The member does not have a point of order.

**Mr Cousens:** The least he could do is feel sorry for them. I mean, they came into power with all kinds of great intentions and then on October 1, when the cabinet was appointed and they all got their big limos, they decided they were going to have four or five years of a good time at our expense.

There isn't any doubt that this government's lost its principles. It doesn't have any. It has forgone them.

Interjections.

**The Acting Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr Cousens:** The Minister of the Environment broke the promise—

**The Acting Speaker:** Order. On a point of privilege.

**Ms Anne Swarbrick (Scarborough West):** I appreciate the offer of sympathy from the member for Markham. However, we really don't need his sympathy. This is the best government this province could possibly have during this tough time.

**The Acting Speaker:** I'm sorry. The member does not have a point of privilege.

**Mr Cousens:** What's in her glass? There's something the matter with what she just said, but at least I've had something to say about the corruption of all.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further questions and/or comments.

**Ms Poole:** I just have one thing to say to the member for Markham.

**The Acting Speaker:** I'm sorry. We're commenting on the member for Algoma-Manitoulin.

**Ms Poole:** As the member for Algoma-Manitoulin just said, "The only fresh thing about the Tories after 44 years is that they made a 10-day-old loaf of bread look perky," and that's what I have to say, through the member for Algoma-Manitoulin, to the member for Markham.

The member for Algoma-Manitoulin brought forward a number of concerns about northern Ontario, and I'll tell you, as somebody who lived for many years in the north, he has made a lot of very valid points.

The first one is that in the north you use heavy-duty vehicles, four-wheel-drive vehicles, utility vehicles, full-size vehicles, not because it looks good, not because it's more comfortable, but because of necessity. It's a matter of safety in many cases. If you have driven in northern Ontario in winter conditions you know how inclement the weather can be, and you know that as a matter of safety, the heavier the vehicle, the greater propensity it is that you are going to have a safe vehicle.

But this government has not considered this. They have in fact penalized people from northern Ontario because of the way of life they have to lead. Anybody who's travelled the vast expanses of northern Ontario knows how important it is to have a vehicle that is not only heavy but safe. These are the very vehicles that the gas tax penalizes, so the real reason this government did it was for a tax grab, not to be fair to the people of the north.

**The Acting Speaker:** We can accommodate one further member in questions or comments.

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**Mr Bisson:** Very briefly, in regard to northern Ontario, this government has done more to help the plight of northern Ontario than any government in the past. I say that with pride as a northern member. Who went into Kapuskasing and saved that town? It was the NDP government who dealt with Algoma Steel. Who dealt in Elliot Lake, who dealt in Virginiatown? It was an NDP government. Who took the registration off vehicles for people in northern Ontario? It was this government. As a northern member, I am quite proud of this government's record in regard to northern Ontario.

**The Acting Speaker:** The honourable member for Algoma-Manitoulin has two minutes in response.

**Mr Brown:** I appreciate the comments of all members and especially the member for Markham, who always upstages me somehow. Nevertheless I want to address specifically the comments of the member for Cochrane South. They're nothing short of outrageous. Look at the budget;

look at the money that's being spent. Place after place after place in the budget of this province, whichever ministry, this government is doing exactly the opposite of what it said it would do.

The most blatant example is right in here: penalizing northerners for buying the cars northerners have to have. But he knows that. He knows they raised the gas tax by 30%. He knows the only thing that's in this budget this year for northern Ontario is a \$30-million commitment to the northern heritage fund. Isn't that great? That was a pledge made by a Liberal government. The northern heritage fund is something his party voted against, and it voted against it for one reason: because \$30 million a year was peanuts, they said.

Now we come to this budget, and what do they say? "The only thing we can do for you guys is that we're going to cut the regular budget down. You don't need that money. You've got too much. We're going to tax you some more." But guess what, Mr Speaker? "We're going to give you \$30 million in the heritage fund. Aren't we a great bunch of guys?"

The northerners are not going to believe that. Northerners are not going to like this tax. They already don't like this tax; they've been paying it for a year and a half. Nonsense over there.

**The Acting Speaker:** Thank you. Further debate? The honourable member for York Mills.

**Mr Turnbull:** It seems to me that when we debate this issue of the gas guzzler tax, Bill 130, we can break it down into three basic elements: there's the argument that this is an environment tax; There's the question of car sales, and with that obviously has to be linked the question of jobs in this province, and there's the question of tax revenue.

We know on the question of tax revenue that successive governments—this government's no different in the sense that it's grabbing more taxes. Where they are different is the level at which they're taking taxes. They're going to say, "Oh, we haven't raised taxes as much as the Liberals." It's true they haven't raised taxes as much as the Liberals, but they're piggybacking all of the taxes they are raising on top of the taxes the Liberals raised.

We know the Liberals had 33 tax increases in the five years they were in power. I remember listening to the NDP saying they were against many of these taxes. We know that. But in the time they've been in power they've piled on the taxes. We've now got 55 different tax increases. When we count together all the socialist taxes of the socialist Liberals and socialist NDP, we have 55 tax increases in seven years. How can we live with this?

The NDP said it was against the tire tax. They said it should be spent on the environment. They're not spending it on the environment. They said they were against the commercial concentration tax. We've even heard one of their members get up today and dump on the Liberals about the commercial concentration tax. You've been in power long enough; you could have taken it away. You promised you were going to take it away, but it's like all of the other promises. They weren't worth the paper they were printed on.

That Agenda for People: it was a crime against humanity that they could possibly be elected on that flimsy document. But they're hanging by it, because now as they squeeze the people and take more and more taxes out of the economy, people are beginning to realize what a bunch of socialists they've got and what they're doing to this province. They're driving jobs out of the province.

When we look at the environmental argument, what on earth is this government doing to help the environment? They brought in, first of all, a tax which was just for the biggest gas guzzlers, the big cars. But their pal, Bobby White, looked at this and said: "This is going to cost some money to your party. We're not going to contribute to you if you do this." So Bob pulled the strings with the other Bob, and the Premier said, "Okay, we'll spread it all over the cars." There are only three automobiles you can buy that aren't taxed by this tax. That is absolutely ludicrous.

**The Acting Speaker:** On a point of order, the honourable member for Downsview.

**Mr Perruzza:** My point is precisely this, Mr Speaker: If the member for York Mills is privy to some information about some dealings, about some meetings etc and about some string-pullings, then he should come forward with that information and share it with the entire House instead of just levelling accusations and untruths. Mr Speaker, that's totally unacceptable.

**The Acting Speaker:** Order, please. That's not a point of order. The honourable member is participating in the debate and he is on topic. He is talking about the automobile tax. He is indeed on subject, on Bill 130. He has the floor.

**Mr Turnbull:** It is just a shame that the member across the floor wouldn't have respect for this House and wear a jacket, but those are the kinds of people we have in government now.

Interjections.

**The Acting Speaker:** On a point of privilege, the honourable member for Downsview.

**Mr Perruzza:** On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: Nowhere do the rules suggest that you have to wear your jacket. My jacket is on the back of the chair because it's hot in here. When you engage in debates with dumfounded Tories who can't see beyond their own toes, you get really hot under the collar and sometimes, in order to cool off, you take off your jacket and you hang it on the back of your chair. That's the reality of it.

**The Acting Speaker:** Thank you. We can resume the debate now. The member for York Mills.

**Mr Turnbull:** It is probably the best speech the member has ever given. But quite frankly, if he's going to get hot under the collar because of all their flip-flops and the fact that they promised us things in the last election, you're going to be completely naked by the time I finish my speech. I don't know if the House rules have anything to say about that, Mr Speaker.

What on earth do we do for the environment? There are only three automobiles that are not taxed by this tax, and they are made in the United States and in Japan.

They're not made in Ontario, so that's not helping to create jobs in this province. I think essentially this government should go back and rethink all its plans like it's having to rethink Sunday shopping and almost everything else it did.

The Treasurer is most concerned at the fact that he appointed a Fair Tax Commission and every single report of the Fair Tax Commission does not meet eye to eye with what the Treasurer's political agenda is. Now he's having to twist in the wind and he doesn't want to listen to it. I'll tell you, the members across there are going to listen to this. They're killing this province.

Yes, it's the Thursday before a holiday and we're having a little fun in the House and that's appropriate, but there's a serious aspect to this. The serious aspect is that this is a government which is doing nothing to stimulate the economy. They are doing nothing to create jobs because the bottom line is they are taking more and more money out of the economy and it means that people cannot spend on goods, which would stimulate the economy and get us back to the prosperity this province had during the 42 years of good Conservative rule.

1750

If indeed we wanted to get cars to be efficient and to be environmentally sensitive, we would encourage people to buy new cars. We wouldn't tax people from buying them. We would say, "Let's get rid of all of the old clunkers." Something like 10% of all the automobiles in this province are old and causing the pollution, and these are the people who can't afford it because they're poor, the people the NDP supposedly represent, but it's doing a very poor job of representing them.

That's because they don't understand the problem. We have a government of people who have never managed before. That's the bottom line. Unless you've met a payroll, you probably don't know what the basic problem is. That's what your Premier is finding out in Japan; people are not too enamoured with your way of governing. When he was in Germany last year he had difficulty. The trade missions: This province has had difficulty getting people to go to some of the meetings to hear this Premier speaking because they have no trust in this Premier and they have no trust in this government.

On the point of Bill 130, Mr Speaker, because I know you're about to remind me that we're speaking about the gas guzzler tax, here is a government that revamped its bill because a union leader said, "Hey, it's going to cost us some jobs." That might have been some good advice if it had been to say, "Okay, let's get rid of the level of taxation we've got and let's encourage people to buy automobiles."

I remember back in the good old days of Tory rule, long before I was involved in politics, when I went out and bought a new automobile. I squeezed out that extra bit of money because there was a tax holiday. I reached and spent a little more money and it helped the economy, and that's something this government doesn't understand.

**Hon Mr Cooke:** You can't do that now because of a thing called the free trade agreement.

**Mr Turnbull:** Here we've got the government House leader, as usual, heckling. It's amazing, this is the very

House leader who suggests we should change the House rules because he doesn't like the conduct of the House. The House leader does more heckling than most of the people in his party. He must be getting hot under the collar. Maybe you're going to have to start getting undressed too, because you are twisting in the wind and breaking all the promises you made to the people during the last election.

We know this is a government that said it could be all things to all people, that it could reduce taxes. It said: "Yes, we're overtaxed, but don't worry. We won't take any services away." This is a government that isn't prepared to take the hard decisions, and the hard decisions involve getting rid of the 9,000 extra civil servants the Liberals added. Instead of doing that, it has added more civil servants and it is guaranteeing the civil servants their jobs. It is saying to the public, "Don't worry, we're only paying them a 1% increase." I have to say bullfeathers to that.

On top of a 1% increase, the people are getting merit increases. Last year alone, they spent 14.5% on increases to civil servants when other people in Ontario were suffering and were pleased to have the same amount of pay as the year before. That's how they're squandering their money and that is why they are having to gather these tax grabs.

I see the Treasurer coming in. He should almost have a black hood over his face because he's a highway robber. He's probably been away in his ministry scheming as to where he can grab some more taxes from hardworking, middle-class people and the working poor, instead of doing something sensible, and that is getting the tax burden down for the people of Ontario.

Let's put away any of this nonsense about suggesting this is an environmentally sensitive tax. It does nothing for the environment. We want to help people to buy environmentally efficient cars; we don't want to say the poor people who cannot afford to replace their old gas guzzling cars should be penalized, but that's something this government doesn't understand.

When we look at the economy of Ontario, it's in tatters. It's not at all the province I came to, and that's why I am so exercised when I speak about these issues, because this is a province that was the envy of the world. It isn't the envy of the world today. I can tell you, when I speak to German bankers they say, "We won't allow our customers who ask our advice to invest in Ontario." All I hear from the government is, "Speak to bankers." Of course I speak to bankers, because the only way you'll ever understand the economy is by speaking to bankers, economists and business people who create the jobs of this province, instead of speaking to your union buddies who are trying to destroy this province. Bob White is pulling the strings and the workers who work in this province are the worse off for it.

The majority of workers in this province are not unionized workers. These are the people you're not interested in and you won't consult with. You will only consult with the union bosses and they do not speak for Ontario. You'd better wake up because your tax-gouging is having a profound effect on the Ontario economy. It's not just you who are going to suffer, it's the people we represent. It's our

children and your children, and you should be ashamed of yourselves.

**The Acting Speaker:** Questions and/or comments?

**Mr Perruzza:** The member for York Mills is a hard act to follow, because when he starts spewing out his rhetoric it's really hard to follow along and determine what the member is actually talking about.

I think at some point he talked about taxes and about what our record is with respect to taxes. I'd like to remind the member that what we did as one of our first acts of government was to separate the calculation of the PST from the GST, which in fact saved Ontario residents about \$700 million. The federal Conservatives, his friends, his colleagues up in Ottawa, went for the tax grab, the big one, the mother of all tax grabs, the GST, the one that not only Ontario residents pay but residents across this country from shore to shore—a tax grab they're not likely to forget. People are finally beginning to read through traditional Conservative rhetoric.

I remember in 1984 and again in 1988 when Mulroney went from shore to shore trumpeting the message that he was not only going to roll back taxes but cut away at the debt. What did he do? In fact he raised the national debt of this country. Worse, he raised taxes from shore to shore to a level and a magnitude that residents in Canada, quite frankly, are never going to forget. I'm certainly never going to forget it. I would encourage my Conservative friend across the way to get on the phone today to his friend Mr Mulroney and get him to roll back the GST.

**The Acting Speaker:** Further questions and/or comments.

**Mr Mahoney:** This will be a voice of reason. I find it interesting when the Conservatives stand up and try to slam anybody within earshot of them. I think the point is that people in general are fed up with all governments—all levels of government.

**Mr Cousens:** Mahoney for leader.

**Mr Mahoney:** No, I ran for leader and lost. That's life, you know. You carry on. But I remember your government under Bill Davis, the old great pink Tory, who came in and bought Minaki Lodge and turned it into a hideaway for all the cabinet ministers to go up north and holiday. Then, unbelievably, we sat in absolute shock as the Conservative right-wing dynasty nationalized Suncor.

That's stuff we would expect from the hordes in office today. That's not stuff we would have expected from people who purport to represent the business community when they're in opposition, who have a leader we all have come to know and love as Taxfighter Mike. Boy, he's out there just going to fight everything. They try to have it both ways. They're not prepared to look at issues of concern to the people in how to raise revenues.

The real enemy—and these guys don't seem to understand it. They sort of can't shoot straight; they stand up to shoot over there and they always go like this. You've got to keep your sights over there, guys. That's the enemy. The people in Ontario understand that. Liberals understand that. You fellows get confused. You can't keep your sights straight; you keep going like this. I don't understand it.

You've got to recognize it's not just taxation; it's the fear this government has put into the business community and into every community and even into many facets of the labour community. That's the problem.

1800

**The Acting Speaker:** Thank you. Further questions and/or comments?

**Mr Cousens:** I would like to compliment the member for York Mills for his participation in this debate. I appreciate the fact that he does get emotional about the problem. But I'll tell you, what else can a person do when he discusses the environmental impact of the gas guzzler tax and the fact that you have another tax which the government is collecting, no different than the tire tax that the Liberals brought in, and it doesn't do a thing to help environmental funds and to invest it back for environmental purposes? The gas guzzler tax is just another excuse by the government to raise funds for its general treasury.

So when the member for York Mills brings forward the reason for the change, that in fact you really only have three cars that are imports now that escape this tax, it makes one wonder whom this government is trying to help. It sure isn't the people in Oshawa and Oakville and other parts of our country that are building cars.

We have to be concerned about generating business and industry. Remember, there was a day back in the early 1980s when there were more cars on the lots, and Frank Miller brought in a tax rebate on the Ontario provincial sales tax so that the cars could get off those lots and be sold to people. We're finding now that instead of making investment in their cars or in new products in Ontario, people are holding on to their money. They're keeping their cars for a much longer period of time because it's prohibitively expensive for them to get them.

I just want to say thanks once again to the member for York Mills. His involvement in this debate has brought some sanity where there wasn't any either by the Liberals or by the New Democrats. I appreciate what he had to say. Thank you very much.

**The Acting Speaker:** Thank you. We can accommodate one further participant. The honourable member for Cochrane South.

**Mr Bisson:** I'm only going to take a couple of seconds, because we're past 6 o'clock at night. I just want to draw to the attention of the House and those people watching the attitude the member talks about, the distaste that is in his speech in regard to the workers of this province. I think people should really pay attention to what the Conservatives are talking about.

The second point is that only business people can run the government and only business people can make decisions. That is contempt for other people in this province and other people in this country who have a stake in what happened in the government.

**Interjection:** Shame.

**Mr Bisson:** And shame on you, exactly.

The other thing in regard to the business—

**The Acting Speaker:** On a point of privilege, the honourable member for York Mills.

**Mr Turnbull:** Much as I'm going to have time to respond, I object to his drawing some sort of conclusion as to what I attribute to workers.

**The Acting Speaker:** Sorry. The honourable member can correct his own record but cannot correct someone else's record. The honourable member for Cochrane South.

**Mr Bisson:** The very last point I want to make is the whole question of the business scare. The Tories have been talking in this House for some time now about what this government is doing to scare business out of the province. The Conservative Party of Ontario has done more to try to scare business out of this province than this government could ever attempt to do in some 20 years.

I was talking to a person in my riding, who is a person of the business community, who had a little discussion with me in regard to some of the information he had been receiving from the Conservative Party, and ways of discrediting what this government is trying to do with business. I wish I could bring that information forward. Unfortunately he doesn't want to come forward. But for you people to stand here and allow that to happen—you people have done more to scare business out of this province, with the rhetoric that you give in this House every day, than we have ever done. Get on the ticket. Get on with us. Let's build Ontario and let's see the Conservative Party work to build Ontario and work to bring business along.

**The Acting Speaker:** The honourable member for York Mills has two minutes in response.

**Mr Turnbull:** First, I'll just speak of the nonsense about the GST. This is a bill about automobiles. The GST reduced the price of automobiles and went from 13.5% manufacturer's sales tax down to 7%. That's a reduction. Maybe your new math on your side of the House—because you obviously can't balance the books. You don't understand it, but that was a reduction.

With respect to what my colleague the member for Mississauga West—

**Mr Mahoney:** Be nice.

**Mr Turnbull:** I'm going to be nice. I have to say I completely agree with him when he talks about the purchase of a quarter of Suncor. What a stupid idea. The member for Renfrew North referred to me as the Thatcherite from York Mills. In that vein, in light of what he calls me, I can tell you there would have been blood on the caucus floor if I had been around in the days when it was suggested that we were going to buy it, because no Conservative government should ever be involved in purchasing companies. It's absolutely ludicrous. So you're absolutely correct.

Moving to the question of any disdain for workers, we have no disdain for workers. We are supportive of workers. We do have disdain for union leadership that is strangling this province and telling you your marching orders. That is what we have disdain for. Get the record straight. Get a copy of Hansard. Read what I said. I never said anything which was disdain for workers. I am a worker. I've worked

all of my life. I appreciate that people work hard for their money. You're trying to tax it away from them.

**The Acting Speaker:** Is there likely to be further debate on the third reading of Bill 130?

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** Yes, there will be further debate.

**The Acting Speaker:** There will be further debate.

We will proceed with the late show. However, prior to doing that, on behalf of all members of this Legislature I want to say thank you to the pages who served us so diligently over the past six weeks. They came from all parts of this great province. I am sure they are returning to their respective homes with good souvenirs of this Legislature. I wish them well. I know they will be given a copy of Hansard. I hope they have a very successful school year, and maybe some of them will return to replace some of us at some future time.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader):** Pursuant to standing order 53, I'd like to indicate the business of the House for the week of May 25.

On Monday, May 25, we will continue with discussion of Bill 130 and then go on to committee of the whole consideration of Bill 121.

On Tuesday, May 26, there's an opposition day in the name of the leader of the official opposition.

On Wednesday we will continue with discussion on Bill 130 and Bill 121, followed by Bill 136 and Bill 118, and the same business for Thursday afternoon.

Thursday morning, May 28, we'll deal with ballot item 9 standing in the name of the member for Grey and ballot item 10 standing in the name of the member for Wentworth East.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** Pursuant to standing order 33, the question that this House do now adjourn will be deemed to have occurred as soon as the late show has been completed.

1810

#### TAXATION

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** The member for Scarborough-Agincourt has given notice of dissatisfaction with the answer to a question given recently by the Treasurer. The member has up to five minutes to debate the matter and the honourable Treasurer will have five minutes in response.

**Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt):** Just to bring the House up to date on the reasons for my dissatisfaction, the Treasurer will recall that I pointed out to the House yesterday that, unfortunately for the House and for the Treasurer, the member for Dovercourt has used public funds to send to his constituency information on the budget that is incorrect. I would suggest the Treasurer has done some damage to the Treasurer's credibility and the government's credibility.

Yesterday in the House, as you'll recall, Mr Speaker, I asked the Treasurer: "Seeing as public money has been clearly used to misrepresent the budget and to mislead the

people of Ontario, I would like to know from you, Treasurer, what steps you are going to take to ensure this misrepresentation is corrected by the members of your government." In response to that, the Treasurer did not indicate any steps he planned to take. So that's what I will be looking for today when the Treasurer responds.

In terms of the substance of my concern, in the publicly funded mailing the member for Dovercourt, the Minister of Education, sent out, he said, "Ontarians making \$53,000 a year or more will see increases in their personal income taxes; the other 90% of Ontarians making less than \$53,000 will not be affected by the changes."

This is simply not true. The facts of the matter are that in 1992, the tax year we're in, if you're making \$40,000 a year, your personal income tax will go up; if you're making \$30,000, your personal income tax will go up; if you're making \$25,000 a year, \$20,000 a year, \$10,000 a year, your personal income tax will go up. The member for Dovercourt is shaking his head no, but that is not the case. It will go up.

The really ironic part of this, for me at least—and I think it will be ironic for many of the viewers out there who are watching this—if you can believe this, Mulroney actually reduced the taxes for these people. Mulroney actually reduced personal income taxes for low-income people. Then if you can believe this, the Treasurer stepped in, and for every dollar Mulroney cut out of the personal income tax this year, the Treasurer is taxing back \$3. He didn't just take back what Mulroney had given; for every dollar Mulroney gave to the people, the Treasurer taxed back \$3. So for those of you out there who thought this year you were going to pay lower personal income tax, you have a very rude shock coming. Not only will your taxes not stay the same, although Mulroney has reduced them; you are going to be paying more personal income tax.

Frankly, that's why I got so angry when I saw the member for Dovercourt's householder. It is factually incorrect. It does you a lot of harm, Treasurer. I will say this to the House: One of the strengths of this government is the Treasurer's personal credibility. I have not a lot of confidence in the rest of the government, but his personal credibility has never been in question. That's why I was so surprised to see the member for Dovercourt do so much to undermine the Treasurer's personal credibility.

I would say again to all the viewers out there, this was the same government that ran on the famed Agenda for People. In the Agenda for People it says: "Tax fairness for the working poor. We are proposing that individuals or families living at or below the poverty line should not pay Ontario income tax." Then in the first move, one could hardly believe it—Mulroney had moved to reduce the taxes for these people—the Treasurer moved in and taxed all that back and then a lot more.

That is the reason I had hoped yesterday that the Treasurer would indicate to the House the steps he was going to take to ensure that the money the public had spent for this misrepresentation of the budget would be corrected. He would undertake to say to the House: "I realize a mistake has been made. I am going to tell our government members

to fix that mistake, to correct that distortion of the budget." That's the most charitable word I could use. I think it's a gross misrepresentation of the facts.

I look forward to the Treasurer telling the House tonight how he is going to assure those people out there that they have the real information.

**The Acting Speaker:** The honourable Treasurer has five minutes in response.

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** Quite frankly, I appreciate the member for Scarborough-Agincourt bringing the issue to my attention in the House yesterday, and I understand his frustration at my response. I have no quarrel with his call for this further debate. When he did raise the matter, I had not seen the leaflet to which he refers. I think he could have, in all courtesy, sent me a copy so I would have perhaps given him a better response than I did. However, I do understand his frustration.

Since the member for Scarborough-Agincourt raised the matter yesterday, I have had a look at the leaflet put out by the member for Dovercourt, who, just to put the record straight, has enormous credibility and strength in this government as well. To imply that the member for Dovercourt would undermine the credibility of me or anyone else in government is preposterous. You may not have agreed with the way he handled educational matters, but I can tell you he is enormously competent and has done an extremely good job.

Let me say, on the leaflet put out by the member for Dovercourt, that the line in question—and I think the member for Scarborough-Agincourt has a good point—does need to be clarified. More than "corrected," I'd use the word "clarified." What's in the leaflet says, "Ontarians making \$53,000 a year or more will see increases in their personal income taxes; the other 90% of Ontarians making less than \$53,000 will not be affected by these changes." There does need to be a clarification as to what year that is.

**Mr Phillips:** Ah, yes.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Let me make it clear: That is true for 1993.

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** That is creative and clever.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Let me finish. The member for Scarborough-Agincourt did ask me where we go from here with this issue. I think it's a fair comment. The member for Dovercourt has assured me—he didn't have to assure me;

I assumed he'd do it anyway—that he will be making a correction or a clarification on that via a householder mailing.

Rather than use the words, which were terribly pejorative, that the member for Scarborough-Agincourt used, I think it would have been more accurate to have indicated that a clarification as to the words here should be made. Because it's talking about the 1992-93 budget, that is the impression that would be left from these words. I have no quarrel with that at all.

I cannot help but respond to the comment the member for Scarborough-Agincourt made about our moving in and picking up the tax room vacated by the Tories. I want to tell you, member for Scarborough-Agincourt, if we in this government walked away from our obligations on post-secondary education and health care the way the Mulroney government has, we could reduce taxes too. I can tell you that much.

**Mr Elston:** The rationale for—

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I am telling you, that's exactly what the federal government did. They walked away from their commitment to post-secondary and health, and guess who picks up the tab?

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** You transferred 1%.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** No. We didn't say: "We're not going to worry about the municipalities. We'll reduce all our transfers to the municipalities." We didn't do that. We don't behave in that fashion, but the federal government sure as blazes did. So don't be surprised. If the federal government continues to walk away from its obligations in this province, somebody has to pick up the tab, because I'll tell you that what the people of this province told me in the pre-budget consultation was, "For heaven's sake, preserve essential services."

My concluding comment is that I've listened very carefully since the budget was brought down and I've heard members opposite, from both parties, call time and time again for lower taxes, a lower deficit and more spending on essential public services. I'm telling you, my friends, you're going to be caught out. You cannot have it both ways for ever. You can't for ever call for lower taxes and more spending on programs that happen to suit your fancy.

**The Acting Speaker:** This completes the business for today. It now being well past 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until Monday, May 25, at 1:30 of the clock.

The House adjourned at 1820.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	<b>Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud</b>	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	<b>Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances</b>	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	<b>Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony</b>	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	<b>North, Hon/L'hon Peter</b>	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
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Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
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Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
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Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	<b>Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	<b>Cooke, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	<b>Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

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Règlements et projets de loi privés**

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W. Leo Jordan, Paul Klopp, Dalton J.P. McGuinty, Sharon Murdock,  
Steven Offer, David Turnbull, Len Wood  
Clerk/Greffier: Harold Brown

**Social development/Affaires sociales**

Chair/Président: Charles Beer  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler  
Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin,  
Irene Mathysen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White,  
Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer  
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

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Co-Chair/Coprésident: Noel Duignan  
Members/Membres: Dianne Cunningham, Remo Mancini,  
Kimble Sutherland  
Clerk/Greffier: Smirle Forsyth

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No. 24

Nº 24

ISSN 1180-2987

## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

## Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 25 May 1992

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

## Journal des débats (Hansard)

Lundi 25 mai 1992

Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers



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### **Index inquiries**

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Effective with the opening of the Second Session of the 35th Parliament, Hansard issues and pages are numbered according to session, rather than calendar year as before. Committee reports likewise are numbered from the first sitting of each committee in this parliamentary session.

Hansard numbering therefore becomes consistent with Orders and Notices and Votes and Proceedings, and with other parliamentary publications throughout Canada.

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### **Renseignements sur l'Index**

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A partir du début de la deuxième session de la 35<sup>e</sup> législature, les pages et les numéros du Journal des débats sont numérotés par session au lieu de l'année civile. Les rapports de comités sont également numérotés à partir de la première séance de chaque comité pendant cette session parlementaire. La numérotation correspond donc à celle de Feuilleton et Avis et de Procès-verbaux ainsi qu'aux autres publications parlementaires au Canada.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 25 May 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### GLAXO CANADA INC

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** It gives me great pleasure to recognize the efforts of Glaxo Canada Inc in my riding. Last April 14, Glaxo broke ground for a \$70-million manufacturing facility. This event was attended by the Prime Minister, our mayor, Hazel McCallion, as well as many members of this Legislature and colleagues at the federal and municipal levels.

As you are aware, Mr Speaker, Glaxo Canada is one of the largest research-based pharmaceutical companies in the country and recently introduced the breakthrough migraine medicine Imitrex. The state-of-the-art manufacturing plant is slated for completion in 1995 and will produce a range of medicines, with an estimated 50% of the plant's output to be exported, primarily to the United States.

In addition, as part of the ceremonies, Canada scholarships graduation certificates were presented to 10 university students demonstrating academic excellence in the biological sciences.

I would like to congratulate Glaxo Canada and Mr Jacques Lapointe, the president and chief executive officer, for their continuing commitment to research and development and impetus for our young people to be involved with the biological sciences. Congratulations to all who took part in a very special day.

### CANADIAN ACADEMIC DECATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South):** I rise to inform members that my community of Burlington hosted this year's Canadian Academic Decathlon Championships which took place on Saturday, April 25. Seventy-nine students participated in 10 challenges, including a four-minute prepared speech, an impromptu address, a formal essay and examinations in six subject areas, ending with a super-quiz where teams answered questions on a wide range of high school curricula.

I am pleased to report that students representing Burlington Central High School took first place at the decathlon championships. These students then travelled to San Diego to compete with an international panel of students and there they placed fourth behind England and Australia, finishing only 27 points behind the winning American team.

The Burlington team captain, Melvin Lee, received a certificate as most valuable team member for the North American contingent. Team member Jon Fagan, who placed third overall in a field of 24 competitors, was joined by Becky Farrell and Wendy McCully, who was declared most supportive team member to compete, to complete Canada's winning combination.

As the member for Burlington South, I should like to publicly congratulate these students for their significant academic achievements nationally and internationally. I should also like to congratulate the president of the Canadian Academic Decathlon Association, Barbara Porecki, who organized this year's contest and who is herself a teacher at Burlington Central High School. It was largely through Barbara's tireless efforts that the decathlon has become what it is today, a harbinger of Canadian academic excellence of which we can all be very proud.

### JOE TERSIGNI

**Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph):** In December I told the House about Mr Joe Tersigni, a teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Guelph. For the past three years Joe Tersigni has organized student forums on national unity, bringing together high school students from across Canada to discuss constitutional issues and the future of this country.

Today the staff and students at Lourdes and Guelph residents are proud that Joe Tersigni has been named one of the top 10 teachers of the year by the Toronto Sun. He was picked from more than 1,100 entrants from around the province and was nominated by another Guelph constituent, Marino Gazzola.

Mr Gazzola is a police officer and now a trustee with the Wellington County Roman Catholic Separate School Board. Mr Gazzola teaches the VIP program—that's the Values, Influences and Peers program. The Sunday Sun quotes from Mr Gazzola's nominating letter:

"Mr Tersigni teaches Canadian history, and taking into consideration some of the national crises this country is in the midst of, that in itself must be an accomplishment.... His students are the first to acknowledge that their personal experiences in this learning process could never be matched in textbooks."

Joe Tersigni is working hard to draw students and politicians to his third forum during the fall. They've invited the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of this province. The students have expressed great admiration for the Premier and hope he will attend. I hope my colleagues of all parties in the Legislature will be able to attend at least one of the sessions in Guelph, to watch these students work together. I think we can all learn something from Mr Tersigni and his students.

### VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

**Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora):** I rise in the House today to comment on the recent tour of the 1992 volunteer service awards, which arrived in the riding of Kenora on Tuesday, May 12. The awards show was cosponsored by the Minister of Citizenship and the Minister of Culture and Communications. I wish to congratulate those recipients in my riding and across the province.

Volunteers do not ask to be recognized or awarded. That is not part of the definition of a volunteer. When they

are recognized, the ceremony means a lot to them. They're being rewarded for their goodwill and at this point the volunteer awards become significant to those individuals. It is on this aspect of the awards that I wish to focus your attention today.

The invitations to the ceremony indicated the presence of both the Minister of Culture and Communications and the Minister of Citizenship. This, as you can well imagine, is well worth the five-hour round trip that many of my constituents drove to attend the ceremony. The attendance of the two ministers of the provincial cabinet brings a sense of anticipation and pride to this evening. The recipients were, however, disappointed. Neither minister attended.

Let me at this point stress that I'm aware of the demands on the members of cabinet. Since no explanation was given for their absence, I can only assume that their plans were changed. That is acceptable. What is not acceptable is the fact that the volunteers were not given an explanation, nor was there any sort of apology to these people. The rhetoric of six northerners in cabinet no longer holds water. This is yet another prime example of where northerners just aren't important to this government.

#### RENT REVIEW

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** My party is concerned that Bill 121 so severely limits the remuneration property owners can obtain to do repairs that Ontario's aging rental stock cannot be properly maintained. Older buildings which require expensive repair and restoration are particularly likely to deteriorate.

In an interview published in the Toronto Star last Saturday, the Minister of Housing acknowledged:

"There are buildings where renovations are not getting done, and I would like to take a look at whether we should be trying to generate some kind of program that's going to do renovations in buildings that are otherwise not getting the attention they should.... It's an issue I want to come back to."

This last statement is almost identical to the minister's words in the standing committee on general government of November 7, 1991, when she said, with respect to subsection 7(2) of the bill, "I am still thinking about matters relating to that." It is unbelievable that on the eve of reporting Bill 121 back to the committee of the whole House this minister is acknowledging that the rent review system will still contain major flaws which will have to be addressed with new programs after the bill has passed.

Bill 121 has been reviewed in the general government committee for several months and has received more than 250 amendments. It is unconscionable that the minister is still thinking about how to correct the flaws in her legislation. If this is the best she can do, she should withdraw the bill today before her government does irreparable damage to the rental housing stock, the tenants and the property owners of this province.

1340

#### SAULT STE MARIE GREYHOUNDS

**Mr Tony Martin (Sault Ste Marie):** I rise today to pay tribute to the Sault Ste Marie Greyhounds. This year, like last year, they won their division and the Ontario

Hockey League championship, except this year they came within seconds of winning the Memorial Cup.

The story of the Sault Greyhounds parallels very clearly the story of my community. It was not so long ago that we almost lost our team and the community gathered around a rescue effort. Today we have a champion two years running. This past year Algoma Steel, our major industry, struggled. In this instance as well the community gathered around. We expect that in the not-too-distant future we will also have a champion in this instance.

A few weeks ago, in speaking about the Sault and Algoma Steel, I said to this House to expect more from us. Well, here we are again. Congratulations, Sault Greyhounds. Congratulations, Sault Ste Marie.

#### ONTARIO HEAD INJURY ASSOCIATION

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole):** I find it ironic, especially at a time when the New Democratic Party government is in the process of establishing gambling casinos in this province, that the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations is making it almost impossible for the Ontario Head Injury Association to become financially self-sufficient.

The association relies on the sale of Nevada break-open tickets for its administrative core funding, as well as for its programs and services that help survivors of traumatic brain injury. The Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations is blocking this effort with an unreasonable guideline requiring an association office in each municipality where these fund-raising tickets are sold. This is an economically foolish guideline. Does the minister really expect the Ontario Head Injury Association to spend its Nevada ticket revenue on offices rather than on its community services?

Minister, your rhetoric about consultation does not fit your actions. A few weeks ago the ministry had excluded the association from any consultation on changes to rules governing the licensing and sale of Nevada break-open tickets. I understand one meeting has been held. The association has asked for another and has yet to hear from your ministry. I have met with the association and strongly support its efforts to participate in these important discussions. Please meet with them, Minister.

#### ALTERNATIVE FUELS

**Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound):** I am pleased to stand in the Legislature today to give my full support to Sunthetic Energy Inc in its endeavour to create Sudbury as a centre for environmental technologies. Sunthetic Energy Inc is proposing to construct a combined cogeneration/mixed ether project. This project will exist in a complex to be located within the regional municipality of Sudbury.

This technology uses waste materials to manufacture large quantities of renewable methanol. It also makes the production of ethanol from grain commercially viable. Raw material requirements for the project will benefit the regional economy as well as the provincial economies of Ontario and Alberta.

This technology makes the production of ethanol commercially viable, and the project does not require federal tax subsidies. Ethanol could be sold in the Ontario market for a profit without any government subsidies. The project promises to make Sudbury known for its competitively priced and environmentally safe power. The major market for renewable ethanol is the United States.

A testament to the quality and viability of this project is the support that it has received from a large number of corporations around the country. This project promises great improvements for the regional infrastructure in northern Ontario. In addition to tangible economic benefits, the project will generate considerable engineering, consulting, construction and related expertise in the Sudbury region. I want to extend my very best wishes for its success in the future.

#### JOHN ANDERSON

**Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich):** It is with great pleasure that I inform the House and its members today of an event that will take place on June 7, 1992, in my riding of Windsor-Sandwich.

It is on this date that a retirement ceremony will be held for Mr John Anderson, an outstanding teacher with Notre Dame Elementary School in south Windsor since September 1975. John, your teaching friends, Mr Brunett, my daughter Leana and all the students wish you well.

I first met Mr Anderson many moons ago, in grade 5 at St Angela grade school on Ellis Street in Windsor, where he taught me science. Here's where we are today. I'm positive that his former colleagues Tim Coughlin and Brian Plante will also say best wishes and congratulations.

Mr Anderson is highly respected both by his peers and his students. Mr Anderson has proved over and over again to be a very valuable teacher as well as a good friend. Although June 30 does mark the end of his 35-year teaching career, I'm certain Mr Anderson will continue to make a valuable contribution to society even after he retires.

A reputable citizen, Mr Anderson has dedicated much of his life to teaching. His interest in a good education is, of course, appreciated by many. On behalf of the community of Windsor-Sandwich, all of Windsor and the students who have greatly benefited by Mr Anderson's talents, I would like to congratulate him in this House today and wish him all the best in his retirement years. Congratulations, John. This one is for you.

#### VISITORS

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I invite all members to welcome to our chamber this afternoon, seated in the members' gallery west, Mr Marek Tawasijevitch, the governor of Pomerania, and five members who are in his delegation. Welcome to our chamber.

#### PROCEDURAL OFFICERS

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I wish to inform all members of the enhancement of the clerks' table with the addition of some procedural officers, whom many of you will recognize. Several of the committee clerks will be taking part in a career development program, part of which includes experience in this House at the table.

#### LEGISLATIVE PAGES

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I would like all members to join me in welcoming our ninth group of pages who are serving in this, the 35th Parliament of the Ontario Legislature:

Clare Bastedo, Muskoka-Georgian Bay; Darren Anderson, Lambton; Jason Brooks, Sudbury East; Lillian Carder, Middlesex; Christopher Da Silva, Fort William; Sarah Govier, Rainy River; John Grant, Guelph; Jeffrey Halili, York Mills; Melanie Hazelton, Niagara South; James Henderson, Etobicoke West; Christopher Hoskin, Frontenac-Addington; James Hugh, Markham; Scott Kerr, Victoria-Haliburton; Peter Koven, St Andrew-St Patrick; Tamara Landry, Niagara Falls; Elizabeth Long, Essex-Kent; Marilyn Mandy, Wentworth North; Sarah McDowell, Burlington South; Jerrica McKinnon, Bruce; Melissa Moreau, Welland-Thorold; Lora Nafziger, Perth; Salim Nakhjavani, Prescott and Russell; Jennifer Parsons, Durham East; Robin Parsons, Mississauga North; David Prang, Brant-Haldimand; Jan Soltysik, Halton North; Paula Tenaglia, Algoma; Melvin Wharton, Brampton South; Paul Yau, Riverdale; Emily Zegers, Kingston and The Islands.

Please welcome all our pages here to our next session.

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** I wonder if I could have unanimous consent to make a statement. I believe the opposition parties have been consulted on this.

**The Speaker:** Do we have unanimous agreement? Agreed.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I appreciate the cooperation of the opposition parties.

1350

#### VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** There are few issues that strike to the heart of every person. One such issue is missing children. When a child goes missing, we are all affected. Every member feels that awful combination of sadness, anger and helpless frustration, the disbelief that this has happened once again. We all feel shock and horror when the body of a child is found and "missing" becomes "murdered."

Nine-year-old Rosalyn Dupuis lived in the small village of Whitefish, within the town of Walden. Early last Wednesday evening she was riding her bike to the local park to play with friends. She didn't make it.

By late Wednesday night, the news swept through my community. It seemed the impossible had happened. What we thought could never happen in our rural town was now reality.

Early Thursday morning, hundreds of residents of Walden and Sudbury turned out to search the bush for one of their own. One could only imagine the anguish felt by Rosalyn's parents. Sadly, the search was short and tragic. Rosalyn's body was found by midmorning.

Mr Speaker, I can tell you my community now feels a universal sense of loss. The Sudbury Regional Police and the OPP will do everything in their power to locate the

perpetrator of this awful crime, but finding the killer of Rosalyn Dupuis will not return this little girl to her family. To them, we can only offer our deepest sympathy. There are, unfortunately, many more families like Rosalyn's. Most of these families do not even have the comfort of knowing where their children are or what happened to them. Without knowing, there is no resolution possible for these families. Their pain goes on.

Today, I'm wearing a green ribbon on my lapel. Green ribbons were worn by the friends of Kristen French during the agony of her abduction and murder earlier this spring. This symbol of solidarity with the families and friends of missing children has been adopted by Child Find International, an organization that works with families and police forces to assist in the location of missing children. I urge all members to support the Green Ribbon of Hope campaign.

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** I rise in response to and certainly in sympathy with the statements that have been made by the member for Nickel Belt about Rosalyn Dupuis and several other children, now numbering unfortunately in the hundreds, who are missing across this country, across the province and across various communities.

Members may recall that earlier this session I made a statement in this House about the finding, unfortunately in this case, of Kristen French from St Catharines, who had been missing for a number of days. The community is quite united, as the member for Nickel Belt will certainly attest; the community unites in these circumstances. We were all saddened, first of all, by the loss of Kristen, and eventually, when she was found murdered, the whole community was horrified by this. On that occasion, I made a statement that I think is appropriate, as the member for Nickel Belt has indicated today, when I said as follows:

"Life seems so unfair when a kind, gracious, innocent girl is taken from her family, her friends and her colleagues at school, in broad daylight in a church parking lot in the midst of a residential subdivision. The sense of vulnerability for women of all ages cannot be made more acute than by the bold, calculating, cruel kidnapping of a girl on her way home from school in her own neighbourhood.

"A violent act perpetrated upon an individual in our society is a violent act against all of society, a fact not lost on the community, which has responded overwhelmingly to the tragedy which has befallen the family of Kristen French. Attitudes and actions which breed individuals who prey upon the vulnerable must be reversed." All of us will agree with that. "Violence against women, young and old, under whatever pretext, must not be tolerated.

"The enactment and enforcement of laws to deal with violent crime must reflect the revulsion of our society against such crimes. It is not an issue which can be avoided, delayed or debated endlessly. It must be addressed now and it must be addressed with commitment and determination" by all of us.

It was interesting, and the member for Nickel Belt would experience, I'm sure, exactly the same thing: With all the issues confronting this Legislature, the federal Par-

liament and local communities, in this case adjacent to Sudbury and in my case the city of St Catharines, the people are concerned about one issue, and that issue is the missing children, the missing young people in the community. It was on the day the Treasurer brought down his budget, and those of us who are in this Legislature would be preoccupied with that, would see the sense of importance of a provincial budget. Yet I'm sure when people in St Catharines and indeed probably people in much of Ontario turned on the television sets and learned Kristen French had been found, their focus of attention was on something that's very human for all of us, something to which everyone in the province can relate.

We should not have to have circumstances where children must be apprehensive about approaching adults when people are simply being friendly, when people are being kind to those young people. Yet unfortunately, in the circumstances we face in our society and much of the world today, we have to teach children to be careful, have to teach them to be cautious, have to teach them to be stand-offish, if you will, with some adults, and I find that most unfortunate.

There were a number of people who attended the funeral for Kristen French. The Treasurer, the member for Nickel Belt, has made reference to the Ontario Provincial Police and the local police in his area. The people who were in attendance at the funeral of Kristen French with tears in their eyes were also members of the police force, because on so many occasions they are the people who, if not make the discovery, of course have to do the investigation. It's not a pleasant job. Most of them who have children or who understand children and know families feel it for themselves and for their own families, as well as of course for the family who has been struck by this kind of tragedy.

We all support the police in their efforts to find those who are responsible for it. We have to look at a lot of ways of dealing with these matters. I don't want to get into them today—they are the subject for another day's debate and discussion—what the federal Parliament and provincial Parliament can do to reduce the risk. But the fact is that children are always going to be vulnerable.

When we find the children, so many of us are sad when the ending is a tragic ending, as so many of them are. We have Terri Anderson as well missing in our community. We have had the body of another person discovered in the Port Dalhousie harbour in St Catharines. Our hearts all sink. I don't think there's anybody who doesn't watch a television newscast and not have a sinking heart at the very thought of this.

What is disconcerting—my colleagues from the St Catharines area are here and would agree, I'm sure—is that terror begins to grip a community when these occasions arise. I know that all of us in this assembly, and all people of concern and all people of goodwill, will be doing everything possible to avoid this from happening in the future and that our hearts go out to the family of Rosalyn Dupuis and to all those families of missing and injured and murdered children across our country.

**Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South):** It has been said that the most vulnerable in our society are our

children, especially our infant children, and it is for that reason that the tragic loss of Rosalyn Dupuis is filled with so much grief and so much sorrow. We can only hope and pray that her soul is at rest and we can pray for her family and her friends and the entire community of Whitefish, who are trying to understand this devastating loss.

The circumstances here have also brought to rest an issue, which is that the small community of Whitefish has shown that no corner of this province is really immune. Just as my colleague the member for St Catharines has referenced several murders in his riding, the murders in Burlington South are well known: Leslie Mahaffy and Nina de Villiers. But I think the province of Ontario is beginning to realize that no community is safe any longer, and therefore questions always emerge: What are we as legislators doing about it?

I am concerned, and I'm sure all members of this House share the concern, that the innocence of a small child has been taken by a murderous act, but so too has our society become increasingly aware of our own loss of public safety and societal innocence. So although we will all commend ourselves to the solidarity of wearing a green ribbon and acknowledging the importance of a green ribbon acknowledgement day, it's important that we commend that agenda to our attention and our priority every day, because that is what the public is telling us. If we are truly going to respond to this crisis in our province, we must commit ourselves in this Legislature. These are very difficult financial times, and the process of setting priorities can sometimes be done by the government and sometimes it can be done by the public. If we are listening to those communities, we will be responding with some more of these public safety measures.

1400

As rare as it is, I would commend the Solicitor General for recently responding to calls from this side of the House to increase financial support to assist the combined police efforts at finding and apprehending the murderer of young Kristen French. That announcement was made late last week. I thank the minister for responding to those concerns, which came legitimately from the citizens of St Catharines and Burlington and were shared by the police forces.

I commend as well the Attorney General, who's about to make an announcement on funding for two child victim witness programs. Although it can be said Ontario does not have a victims' bill of rights for the families which have to go through the ordeal that is occurring in Whitefish and other communities throughout this province, it's safe to say there are small projects occurring virtually somewhere in this province at any one time. But are they truly accessible for all the children and the grieving families in this province?

I want to reiterate a point my colleague the member for Leeds-Grenville has made on several occasions. Whether we wish to deal with this or not, we must deal as a Legislature with the increased trend towards granting earlier and more frequent release and leave to known sex offenders from our institutions in this province. That is a challenge. It is a financial challenge. It is one which we must all

commend ourselves to if we are truly to respond to those children who do not have a voice when these tragedies occur.

We as legislators of all political parties join the member for Nickel Belt and are pleased to join the member for St Catharines in paying our tribute to the loss and the life of young Rosalyn Dupuis and the green ribbon campaign to which she now stands as one of its soldiers.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I thank the member for Nickel Belt, the member for St Catharines and the member for Burlington South for their kind and sensitive remarks. It's time for statements by ministers.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

##### PREMIER'S VISIT TO JAPAN AND HONG KONG VISITES DU PREMIER MINISTRE AU JAPON ET À HONG-KONG

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I have two statements to make. One, on the Constitution, I've shared with the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the third party and I'll come to in a moment, but the first one is to do with the report of my recent trip to Japan and Hong Kong.

The combined length of these two texts may take me over the time allotment but I certainly know that my members would want to recognize the rights of both the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the Conservative Party to take a reasonable length of time in responding, but certainly not to stick to the five-minute limit, if that's agreed.

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** We're just happy to have you here.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I want to say to the member for St Catharines that he was always uppermost in my mind whenever I was away, as he is on this day.

I want to take this opportunity to report to the House on my recent trip to Japan and Hong Kong.

First, this visit reinforced my belief that Ontario must strengthen its links to these important economic partners. It may sound like a cliché, but the energy and vibrancy of the people and the economies hit you as soon as you step off the plane at Hong Kong's Kai-Tek airport or the moment you reach Tokyo.

We share a rich history. Thanks to decisions made by hundreds of thousands of individuals, Asia and the Pacific have become a very important part of Ontario's heritage. People from all parts of Asia have chosen to make Ontario their home. While they've become Canadians, they've not abandoned their languages, cultural roots or contacts. By phone, fax, jet and videocassette Ontario is now profoundly linked with Asia. We have learned much from each other and we still have much to learn.

During the six days I spent in Japan I spoke with many business leaders, workers and government representatives about the need to further develop our relationships. I spoke of our need to encourage and assist Ontario companies to move into Japan's market. I was able to meet with the Minister of International Trade and Industry, Mr Watanabe, and the chairmen of Komatsu, Sony and the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association, the presidents

of NHK Spring, Mitsubishi Corporation—I also met with the chairman of Mitsubishi—Sumito Heavy Industries and Hirose Electronics, along with a number of other leaders. I talked with them about the degree to which Ontario has learned from Japan's experience.

Turning to some of the specifics of my trip, my time in Hong Kong was brief, just over 24 hours, but I was able to meet with some of the leading industrialists and investors, including Mr K.S. Li and Dr F.S. Cheng. I also met with some 40 members of the Canadian business community and spoke to about 200 at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. I met with Mr James Ting, the president and CEO of International Semi-Tech Microelectronics, an enormously successful Canadian multinational company, and also with Mr James So, the Secretary for Recreation and Culture, who is in charge of the Festival Hong Kong in Canada, which will be taking place in September and October of this year. I also met with the Governor of Hong Kong, Lord Wilson.

During my visit to Japan, in conversations with Mr Kozo Watanabe, the Minister of International Trade and Industry, and with others, I expressed concerns about the so-called "voluntary plan" by Japanese auto manufacturers. It is essential that companies in Canada be fairly and equally considered in any decisions on North American sourcing. I also made it very clear that Ontario is committed to fighting US protectionism of the sort created by the success of the Honda plant in Alliston. We look forward to a speedy and successful resolution of the Honda dispute, and we will continue to defend the rights of our investors against unfair attacks by other trading partners no matter where they come from.

I also pointed out to Minister Watanabe that Ontario had been an active supporter of Osaka's Expo '90, and I asked for Japan's support in Toronto's bid for Expo '98. It would provide a much-needed balance: Europe is home to Expo '92 and Expo '96, and Expo 2000 went to Hanover, Germany, after Toronto lost the bid by only one vote. I made it clear that the Ontario government is leading the campaign to have Expo '98 in our province and that my colleagues the Minister of Tourism and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology have lobbied hard for Toronto, with its positive theme of multiculturalism.

Comme les autres pays, le Japon n'a pas échappé aux changements survenus dans l'économie. Son taux de croissance a ralenti et la hausse du yen a nui à son marché d'exportation. Mais ce pays possède une qualité enviable pour avoir toujours su surmonter ce genre de difficultés ; c'est une tradition dont nous pourrions tirer un grand enseignement. Nous avons vu le Japon à l'oeuvre pour créer une société solidaire, et nous avons admiré l'adresse avec laquelle il a abandonné les industries en déclin pour s'intéresser à des activités économiques toujours plus progressistes les unes que les autres. Depuis une quarantaine d'années, ce pays avance à pas de géant dans les secteurs de la santé publique, de l'éducation et de la formation.

Investing in people, investing in services, investing in research and new technologies, building cooperation instead of conflict, being willing to adapt to change: These

are all ingredients of success that both Japan and Ontario understand.

On my trip I spoke with more than 100 executives of Japanese companies who had lived in Ontario and who are forming the Ontario Club to promote Ontario interests in Japan. I told them we welcome Japanese investments, the technology, knowledge and skills that Japanese companies bring with them, and Ontario's location, within a day's drive of 100 million North Americans and within a two-day drive of 170 million people, makes it an ideal continental production base.

But we must do more, ourselves, to emulate the export orientation of Japan and Asia. We should be training more young Canadians to speak Japanese and Chinese to prepare for marketing challenges in the Pacific Rim. I know it's a challenge; there's a lot more legwork involved than in making a sale to Cleveland. But we can persist and develop strong business relationships. At a breakfast with some 20 young Canadians involved in a variety of businesses in Japan I was struck by their excellent language skills and years of experience in this market. We must make better use of their talents and abilities. I hope the Canadian private sector will develop the same enthusiasm for investing in training such young people and putting them to work.

We must move from simply being exporters to promoting a truly international perspective in the province. Our education and training, our investment and industrial strategies, our communications systems and language programs and our marketing skills all can reflect and foster this perspective. This is something well known in Japan and Hong Kong and in many other countries. Our businesses and our young people must begin to see themselves and their future in this light; this is Ontario's challenge.

Interjection.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I'm sure the member for Etobicoke West has had an opportunity to digest the impact of the first statement, and now perhaps I can turn to the second.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** Okay, go now.

**Hon Mr Rae:** There'll be a slide presentation, if you'd like.

1410

#### CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM RÉFORME CONSTITUTIONNELLE

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I'd like now to turn to the subject of the Constitution. I've given a copy of my statement to the leaders opposite. We had a brief opportunity to meet about this in my office at 1 o'clock. I hope they will understand that I may slightly embellish the text because there are some things I want to try to explain.

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** Not unusual at all.

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** Now that you have the floor.

**Hon Mr Rae:** But I will not be overly long. I know the member for York Centre will indulge me, as he always has in the past.

It's almost two years now since the Meech Lake accord failed to achieve ratification and become part of our Constitution. Since that time all of us, as citizens and as political leaders in the province, have given much thought to the Constitution and to the future of Canada.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you more information on what has been happening during this time, and also my assessment of where we are and where I hope we're going.

Our democratic system and our institutions are linked, our economies are linked, and our personal and family relations are linked, as are our human rights, our social programs and our relations with other countries.

When we work to renew the Constitution we have to think about all these links—sometimes about making them tighter, and at other times about making them more flexible. All of history teaches, and recent world events certainly confirm, that states are fragile—Canada, I would add, is certainly fragile—that they have to be nurtured, and Canada has to be nurtured, and renewed and sometimes changed significantly if they are to adapt and survive and prosper. That is why what we are doing in reforming our Constitution is so important.

This round is about all the linkages among us: between provinces, between regions, between cultures and between peoples. We want the linkages to be both strong and flexible so as to allow the whole—Canada—to be inclusive. Inclusiveness is what this round is all about. It is our most important theme: inclusiveness of Quebec, the aboriginal peoples, the west, the east, central Canada, racial and ethnic minorities—all Canadians.

This is why we have said from day one and from the earliest debates and discussion we had in the Legislature following the Meech Lake accord—I think there was general agreement following the failure of the ratification of Meech—that this next round, yes, has to deal with Quebec's problems, but it has to be a round that's seen as being a round for all of Canada. Certainly that's the perspective I've taken into these discussions.

Nous devons constamment nous adapter à de nouvelles idées, à de nouveaux mouvements sociaux et à de nouvelles conditions économiques. C'est habituellement un processus imperceptible et naturel, mais nous devons parfois faire le point et penser aux changements nécessaires et à la façon dont nous pouvons collectivement nous adapter aux nouvelles contraintes de manière à ce que les liens fondamentaux demeurent.

Il n'est pas paradoxal de dire que nous devons, de temps à autre, modifier la constitution pour qu'elle continue de représenter fidèlement tous les citoyens et toutes les citoyennes. La plupart d'entre nous reconnaissent que les pourparlers actuels sur le renouveau constitutionnel sont peut-être les plus importants depuis 1867. C'est sans doute pourquoi la population a participé en si grand nombre aux conférences et aux audiences.

It is also important because I think it's clear to all of us that Canada as a federation is not working as well as it

should and certainly not working as well as we all know it can. The economy is on everybody's mind, and Ontario believes that all the tools in the hands of governments must be used to help pull it out of this serious recession. To do this, elected leaders in our federal system have to apply themselves together in the spirit of unity and cooperation.

This round of constitutional renewal is also important because success would mean a modernized political structure where past grievances would no longer interfere with present-day challenges. If Canadians are to deal successfully with the challenges of a changing world, we must first resolve the lingering injustices of the past.

Without being alarmist—because I'm not—let us admit that we are working hard to achieve a resolution because the consequences of failure would be very destructive to the Canada we want for ourselves and for our children. Over the past two years, Canada entered an intense period of public consultations, national and provincial, in a search for constitutional renewal that would respond to diverse needs and aspirations within a united country.

At the end of February of this year, the joint parliamentary committee set up by the federal government submitted its report, known as the Beaudoin-Dobbie report, called *A Renewed Canada*. At that time I gave an initial response to the report on behalf of the government. I indicated that it was a good start, but I also emphasized my concern that there appeared at that time to be no plan for how to move from this report to a final package of amendments that legislatures could then move to ratify. I said at that time that it was important for us to begin serious negotiations between Ottawa, the provinces and the territories. I pointed out that in a federal state, Ottawa on its own could not present a unilateral offer to Quebec.

As you know, Mr Speaker, on March 12 in Ottawa, at a meeting of ministers responsible for the Constitution, a number of provinces including Ontario proposed that we then engage in an intense multilateral process. At the end of the day on March 12, it was agreed that we would work together for a period of 10 weeks, until the end of May, to negotiate a multilateral constitutional reform package. We were missing Quebec then at the table, and we are still missing Quebec at the table now. We certainly hope it will soon decide to join us. We want to do our best for everyone and, ideally, we need everyone at the table so we can understand exactly what they require and also where they might be willing to compromise.

In our view, March 12 was an important turning point; we now had a multilateral process for negotiations. But we achieved much more on March 12. It was agreed that the representatives of the aboriginal peoples would take part in this process as full members. As well, for the first time ever, it was accepted that these leaders must participate at the table as equals when governments negotiate constitutional change.

A week after the March 12 meeting, our deputies—federal, provincial and aboriginal—got together and established a coordinating committee on the Constitution and four working groups of officials to prepare material for the

negotiations between principals. Each group includes officials from all the participating delegations, and each has a bundle of issues with which it must deal. Group 1 deals primarily with the distinct society, the Canada clause and the amending formula; group 2 with the Senate; group 3 with aboriginal self-government issues, and group 4 with the division of powers, the social charter and the economic union. The groups got together before the end of March to begin their work, and by April 8 there was enough material for premiers, ministers and aboriginal leaders—we call them “principals” now for short—to discuss at the first substantive meeting in Halifax. Since then, principals have met almost weekly, and our final series of meetings begins tomorrow in Toronto.

While I was away, I was replaced at some of the meetings by the Minister of Natural Resources and minister responsible for native affairs, who has also joined me for many of the meetings. I think you all know that I or Mr Wildman was accompanied to each of these meetings by a member from each of the opposition parties who joined us as members of the Ontario delegation. I have deeply appreciated their participation, their commitment to the process, and the very real help, advice and perspective they have given us throughout. I cannot say enough about how much all of us in Ontario have benefited from this approach and from our ability to work together to make sure this is not a partisan issue and that the steps we take are taken on behalf of all the people of the province. If I could, I would like to single out the member for York North, who has made a truly outstanding contribution to the delegation, as well as the member for Parry Sound, the member for Willowdale and the member for Carleton, who have all been involved at different times in the discussions.

1420

It may well be that at some point there will be partisan criticisms or partisan comments, and I don't mean that in a trivial sense. It may well be that parties decide to take a different position on a particular issue, and I don't resent that. But obviously it would be in everyone's interests if we could try to pull this together. I'll come to why I think that's so important in a moment.

I want to say that the members who've been there have really been, for me, critical sources of advice. I want to encourage them to continue and urge them to do so. Also, as I've said to the leaders of both opposition parties, I very much hope they will be able to find some time to participate in the discussions in Toronto this week, because I think their participation would be very constructive and worthwhile.

We're a lot closer today to our goal of a best-efforts rough package than we were 10 weeks go. In fact, if we think of the period since the failure of the Meech Lake accord, I believe it is safe to say that more progress has been made during this period than in any other 10-week period in the last two years.

Of course, the process did not start from scratch. It built on much thinking and on consultations which have come before it, including the select committee on Ontario in Confederation, the hearings and the conference it held to find out what Ontarians feel and its final report. There

were also the reports of other provincial committees, the federal proposals of last September, the six constitutional conferences and the Beaudoin-Dobbie report. These are all vital inputs into the process and they also assure the public that this is an open and transparent process even if political leaders must, from time to time, get together to negotiate the hard compromises.

Let me also say that I've been very much assisted by my parliamentary assistant, the member for Fort York, as well as by the previous work of the first Chairman of the select committee, the member for Dovercourt, who is now a minister in the cabinet, and the person who succeeded so ably to that task, the member for Victoria-Haliburton, who has been a very real help in terms of getting us to where we are today.

The goal of the multilateral process has been to develop a rough package of reform amendments for final consideration by first ministers and by aboriginal leaders. Since we are working to develop as much as we can a full package, not just discrete items, all the provisional agreements reached so far are subject to review as part of the final package.

I want to emphasize that point. I am doing something which I think I have to do in the interest of informing members and the public—in a sense, a report card on a provisional basis as to where we are—but I don't want anyone to think that any item I have described is finally agreed to even in the form in which I am describing it.

I think I have a responsibility to let people know on a provisional basis where we are; I'll come to that in a moment. But we're going to find that there will be those who will disagree and those who will say, “Well, that's not exactly what I need; I need this plus something else,” and we then begin to get into the bargaining process again.

I don't want anyone to misunderstand the exact assessment of where we are. I feel the need to give you a report card, but I don't want to kid anybody that what we have here is in any sense a final package or a final agreement among provinces and among the aboriginal leaders. It is certainly possible, as the text says, that some of the details will be reconsidered in light of the ultimate package. I think that's putting it mildly.

With this in mind, here are the main items on which conditional consensus has been reached so far. I want to stress that not all the participants are agreed to everything, but I do want to give the House some sense of the main parameters.

Values: (a) There will be an interpretive Canada clause for the entire Constitution which will refer to, among other things, Quebec's distinct society, the linguistic duality of Canada, the aboriginal inherent right to self-government, ethnic diversity, our democratic institutions, the equality of the provinces within their diverse characteristics and the equality of women and men.

(b) Quebec will be recognized as a distinct society in the charter and in the Canada clause, as will be linguistic duality. The wording of the Beaudoin-Dobbie report

is the basis of the consensus which seems to be coming together.

On the amending formula, there is agreement to discuss two approaches to changing the amending formula with respect to national institutions. These are unanimity and the so-called 7/85, which is a proposal which has come forward from the government of Saskatchewan and which we are all looking at on a working basis.

There is agreement to the principle that existing territories should be able to become provinces solely by an act of Parliament.

Provinces which opt out from transfers of jurisdiction from—I would ask people to check their record—the federal government will receive fair compensation.

There is agreement with the principle that aboriginal consent be required to future constitutional amendments which directly affect aboriginal people.

Senate: There is agreement that the Senate should be elected and there is agreement that it will not be a confidence chamber. There are a few other agreements with respect to the Senate, but basically what we're now doing is considering two Senate models which are being developed by the working groups on a working basis for the purposes of discussion and for the purposes of sharing information, one of which would be the so-called equal triple E model and the other the so-called equitable model. This approach allows officials and principals to work through many important details even though the fundamental issue of provincial or regional representation has not been resolved yet.

There is agreement that jurisdiction over Senate elections will be federal and that Senators will be elected by a proportional representation method which would encourage better representation of traditionally underrepresented groups.

Supreme Court: There is agreement on a provincial and territorial role in appointing Supreme Court judges.

Aboriginal issues: There is agreement to entrench in the Constitution the inherent right of aboriginal people to self-government. The inherent right is recognized within Canada as one of Canada's three orders of government. Aboriginal leaders and governments are committed to negotiations to define the roles and responsibilities of aboriginal governments. This process will be open to all aboriginal people. The Charter of Rights will apply to aboriginal governments.

Social charter and economic union: There will be a social charter in the Constitution, to be described in section 36 in a subsection on the social and economic union. In many of its details, this statement will parallel Ontario's original proposal to protect Canada's health care system and social programs.

There will be a constitutional statement of the principle of free movement of persons, goods, services and capital.

Division of powers: There is agreement to recognize and clarify the existing exclusive provincial jurisdiction in tourism, forestry, mining, recreation, housing and municipal-urban affairs. Financial arrangements, which will be difficult and are yet to be negotiated, will be determined through a political accord.

There is agreement to recognize labour market training as an area of exclusive provincial jurisdiction, and that program responsibilities be transferred to the provinces, together with financial compensation.

There is agreement to recognize culture as an area of provincial jurisdiction while recognizing—and I want to emphasize this point because it must not be misunderstood—and maintaining the continuing federal responsibility for national cultural institutions, including institutions which transfer grants to individuals and organizations across Canada.

Opting out from new national cost-shared programs with compensation will be possible if a province establishes a program to achieve national objectives.

There will be an enforceable obligation on the federal government to conclude an immigration agreement with any province requesting one. Any province negotiating an agreement must be accorded equality of treatment in relation to any other province's agreement.

There is agreement to the principle that changes to the division of powers in this round should not adversely affect aboriginal and treaty rights and there is an agreement to include a specific reference to economic infrastructure in section 36.

By way of conclusion—and I appreciate the indulgence of the House in this regard—whatever the outcome of this final week of negotiations among the principals may be—and we have said to ourselves that we don't want to extend this process indefinitely; we do take our need to try to reach some kind of agreement seriously—I think it is fair to say that the multilateral process that has been begun is a success. In fact, the constitutional reform process, of which it has been the latest phase, is moving forward and there is every reason to be optimistic.

1430

We have an important week of meetings coming up in Toronto, a week in which we will all be working hard on the rough package, which I believe should go to first ministers and aboriginal leaders in the near future. But this is not the final week at all of the reform process. More is going to take place in the coming weeks and, frankly, it is not yet entirely clear—and certainly ministers and principals and premiers haven't agreed yet—what exact shape the process is about to take. I rely on the advice of others in this regard.

What is clear is that the ingredients of the process—genuine public involvement, genuine involvement by the legislatures and genuine political leadership—will continue to be important. We in fact have to spend a little bit of time in determining that among ourselves. We will as Ontarians continue to negotiate and to listen, and when the time comes, when there is more clarity about the process, we will need to decide how this Legislature and how the people of Ontario will continue to be involved.

I look forward to the continuing commitment of members of the House. I look forward to their continuing support and to their continuing advice in this most critical time in our country's history.

## RESPONSES

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM  
RÉFORME CONSTITUTIONNELLE

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** We all welcome the report the Premier has given us today on the constitutional discussions, a report which is clearly intended to keep informed not only the members of this Legislature but also the people of this province.

The Premier has indicated that he did invite the leaders of the two opposition parties to participate in the interprovincial discussions, and we very much appreciate that opportunity. The Premier has noted the involvement on a very regular basis of the member for York North, and there was no question in my mind in asking this particular member of our caucus to participate in those discussions on our behalf that he would indeed make a significant contribution to what we hope and trust will be the successful resolution of this most important debate.

There is surely no question that this is indeed an issue on which our partisan differences need to be set aside, in fact must be set aside, so that all of us are working towards a successful resolution of the discussions at the constitutional table. All of us who are Canadians and proud to be Canadians want to ensure that the unity of this nation is preserved, so we welcome the fact that there is progress being made, and we want to be able to share in that sense of optimism which the Premier has expressed today. C'est un grand défi et je suis heureuse d'offrir un peu d'optimisme aujourd'hui.

Having said that, we recognize that there are still significant challenges to be addressed in resolving some of those very critical issues at the constitutional table since, as the Premier has indicated, this is by no means a final package, but that there are also significant challenges to be addressed in ensuring that the final set of proposals is indeed understood, accepted and supported by the people of this nation. It seems to me that is one of the critical challenges the Premier and indeed his colleagues, the premiers of each of the provinces, as well as the Prime Minister of the country, must also address, and that's how to ensure that people in all provinces and regions are fully aware and fully understanding and able to participate in the final approval of this constitutional package.

It's absolutely essential, certainly within our province, that the people of Ontario understand what's being discussed, that they understand what the implications are of any proposals which are being considered or in fact any proposals which may be agreed to. It is also essential that people of the province be prepared to participate in what again we all hope will be the successful resolution of these very critical issues. It's important that the people of this province be invited to participate in this resolution in a way which is seen to be appropriate and timely.

There are issues which will concern the people of this province, and the Premier has touched on a number of them in giving us his update today.

Certainly people in this province are going to be concerned about the matter of Senate reform and the difficulty of finding that very important balance between the defini-

tion of what is equitable and the definition of what is effective. I believe the people of the province are going to have some questions about the redistribution of powers and are going to want to be assured that in looking at a new division of powers it will in fact be possible still to maintain an effective federation even as we meet the needs, and the changing needs, of people in different regions of the country.

I believe as well that the people of this province must have a needed understanding of the kinds of commitments that are being made, or that are perhaps intrinsic, in recognizing the inherent right of aboriginal self-government.

We recognize that these are all extremely important issues, that they are difficult to resolve, but they are also issues that the people of this province will want to be able to consider and discuss before any final approval of the constitutional amendments is sought.

We will watch this week's very critical discussions with a great deal of interest, we will participate to the extent we are able and we will look forward to the Premier's report to the House at the conclusion of this week's sessions.

## PREMIER'S VISIT TO JAPAN AND HONG KONG

**Mr Monte Kwinter (Wilson Heights):** I would like to congratulate the Premier on his recent trip to the Far East and tell him how pleased I am that he had a chance to see at first hand two of the most vibrant economies in the world. But I would like to express a note of caution and concern to the Premier.

He will know that by nature the Japanese in particular are a very polite community. I hope he would not take their politeness for a sign of approval and would know that, notwithstanding that as the Premier of Ontario, a position everybody in the Far East holds in very great esteem, they would treat him with that respect, there are concerns. Certainly on my recent trip there were some concerns expressed about some of the fiscal and legislative directions of this government. They may not, in their obligation to be polite, have said some of these things to him.

I hope he will understand that while there are wonderful opportunities in the Far East and a relationship has developed over the years, particularly with Hong Kong—many of their citizens now live here, many of their businessmen invest here; the people of Japan also look to Canada as a source of investment—this fragile alliance is just that, fragile, and that he make sure the policies of this government do nothing to upset that fragile relationship and that he continue to keep Ontario as a very attractive location for investment, not only from the Far East but from all our other world trading partners.

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** The member for Wilson Heights has dealt with the substance of the Premier's trip to the Far East. I'd like to deal with the timing of the Premier's trip to the Far East.

I suppose those of us in the Legislature today should be honoured to have the Premier present. We haven't seen a lot of him lately. We always welcome him and love to see him in the House so we're able to direct questions to him and get some responses from him. I do believe, however,

that we can justifiably question the timing of the Premier's trip to the Far East and his other globe-trotting activities when they take place when the House is sitting.

I can well remember, as you will, Mr Speaker, because you've been a long-time member of this House, that when the former Leader of the Opposition—he was an excellent Leader of the Opposition, I always said that, and I'm sure will be a good Leader of the Opposition at some time in the future—but I can remember that of paramount importance to the gentleman who is now the Premier of this province was the accountability of the Premier to the 130 elected representatives in the Legislative Assembly. The Premier has an opportunity when the House is not sitting, and with this government that covers a lot of territory these days, to make his trips to the Far East, to do his debating at Oxford, to travel to Cleveland and several other places.

I appreciate the fact and I do want to say, as the member for Wilson Heights has stated, that it's important that the Premier have that opportunity to visit places such as Hong Kong and Japan and other places around the world. I think that's exceedingly important. I do hope the Premier and those who are scheduling his globe-trotting in the future will ensure that the Premier does so, however, when the House is not sitting, in order that those of us in the opposition, and indeed some of his own members, will be able to ask the important questions of the day.

Sometimes what happens with those in public office, particularly those who have the highest public office—and this transcends all political parties; I'm sure this could be applied to virtually any political party and any leader—is that they start to lose touch with the day-to-day problems that confront the people of their jurisdiction. I know this Premier would not want that to happen to him. For that reason, I implore him to be present in the Ontario Legislature as often as possible.

I know that by taking the amount of time I have today, be it only a couple of minutes, I've reduced the chances of being able to ask the Premier a question later on, because he'll want to depart early for other meetings later on in the afternoon. I welcome him back. We're delighted to see him in the Legislature, and I urge him to be here much more often so we can question him.

1440

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** I won't take time talking about the Premier's attendance in the House. I understand, as the leader of a political party, that there are other important functions that must be fulfilled, and I understand why the member for Wilson Heights, on behalf of his party, deferred that to the member for St Catharines.

Let me make a few comments on the Premier's first statement and then deal with the Constitution. I say to the Premier, if he would ensure that his government had a coherent and consistent economic policy, a moderate and fair tax system, a fiscal policy that promised businesses, entrepreneurs and investors a little more than debt and taxes and a legislative agenda that demonstrated that the government understood the requirements of businesses from all around the world, he wouldn't have to go cross-

border shopping for investment dollars quite as often as he has felt it necessary to do.

I heard from a number of business people, Premier, who were aware of your trip to Japan. They cringed a little bit and hoped your presence there didn't remind the Japanese of the labour legislation or the taxation policy or the recent budget or the future legislative agenda of Ontario. I say that with a great deal of sincerity. There is a role for the Premier in promoting our businesses abroad and promoting the attractiveness of Ontario as a place to invest. It's very difficult, I might say at this particular time, for the current Premier to fulfil that role.

I might also add that I was intrigued to notice in the Premier's statement that he indicated forcefully to the people of Japan, and business people particularly, that he was confident the Canada-US free trade agreement was indeed the sound vehicle to fight protectionism on behalf of the Honda plant in Alliston. I just wanted to note the Premier's confidence in that free trade agreement.

**Mr Bradley:** You're stretching it a bit, Mike.

**Mr Harris:** Well, it's the Premier's statement. He wanted to make a point of it here in the Legislature. He reminded Japanese investors and business people of the fact that Ontario is located within a day's drive of 100 million North Americans and within two days' drive of 170 million people. That makes it an ideal continental production base. I assume he was promoting the free trade agreement and the fact that to be located in Ontario you have access not just to 10 million Ontarians but, because of the free trade agreement, to 100 million and indeed 170 million within two days' drive.

I just make note of the fact, as the Premier has here, of the Premier's great confidence and pride in the free trade agreement, I might add more so than I myself. I think there are still some things in the free trade agreement that need to be cleaned up a little bit. However, I appreciate the Premier's confidence.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** I do wish, though, to spend most of my time talking about our Constitution. I want to say, as the leader of the Liberal Party has said, as the Premier has said, that if there was ever an issue that transcends party politics, it is our Constitution and the very complex challenge of amending our Constitution. I have recognized this fact. I believe I have demonstrated that recognition over 11 years. My caucus colleagues have as well. Most recently we demonstrated that non-partisan support by being cosignatories to the provincial Constitution report and indeed by working very hard to make sure we had a report that could be signed unanimously by members of all three parties.

I also, on this issue as opposed to some others, as I acknowledge, extend my congratulations to the Premier for recognizing the importance of involving the opposition parties in the process. The involvement of the opposition parties, I point out, does not mean they are silenced or they will always agree, as the Premier has said, but it does mean they are informed. That has not always been the case and it's not the case on all issues.

When the Premier invited me to participate in Ontario's delegation to the constitutional negotiations he was indeed continuing an Ontario tradition that began with the Honourable John Robarts and has been carried on, more or less to varying degrees, I think the Premier would agree with me, throughout a period of time. I want to say to the Premier that nowhere have I found the degree of openness more so than he has extended to the opposition parties, and I appreciate that.

I also want to extend my thanks to the three members of my caucus who have participated as well in these negotiations: the members for Parry Sound, Carleton and Willowdale. I know the House leader for the New Democratic Party pointed out that it took three of our caucus members to one Liberal to grasp the complexities involved in the issues.

**Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader):** Did you read the second part of the note?

**Mr Harris:** I didn't read the second part of the note you sent over, House leader, but I want to suggest that I very humbly acknowledge it will take all 20 of us in our caucus, it will take all 130 members of this Legislature committed indeed to this process and to understand particularly the goals and the aspirations and the needs, if you like, of the other nine provinces, of the aboriginal people, of the territories and those a little different from our own constituencies.

Thanks to the updates I have been receiving from the Premier and the three members who have represented us, I believe—I am not sure the Premier stated it this clearly—we are closer to a constitutional deal today than we have been since the failure of the Meech Lake accord—much closer today, I believe, than we were a year, six months or even three months ago. In fact, the Premier has cautioned us that it still leaves us a long way to go, and I agree with that as well. We are not there yet. With May 31 rapidly approaching it is far from guaranteed we will get there, in fact.

When I meet with people in Ontario—and I have been meeting with many over the past few months; as you know, Premier, I have been travelling this province extensively—the Constitution is not the first thing they ask me about; it is not the second; it is not the third. Very often it does not come up, even in the wide-ranging, wide-open forum I participate in with community receptions.

It's not because people don't care about the future of this country. Rather I believe it is because they have something more important on their minds and something they feel is more important to the future of their families, their jobs, themselves. If you're having trouble putting food on the table, it is difficult to work up a lot of interest in how senators are elected or who has control over natural resources or their export or whether or not the recognition of the inherent right of natives to self-government should be immediately enforceable in the courts.

1450

People are tired of the Constitution. They're tired of the constitutional jargon, which is very difficult even for those involved to understand, and of the wrangling. Over

the past couple of years we've had provincial committees, we've had federal committees, we've had private committees, we've had public committees, all poking and prodding at our national psyche to determine what it is we really want out of this nation. To date, all we have determined is that, depending on where you come from in Canada, you probably have different expectations about what it is you want or expect or believe should be in a constitution. We're suffering from constitutional burnout.

That is why it is most important as politicians, as I remind Canadians and I remind Ontarians and I remind my caucus, to help our constituents realize the ramifications of constitutional failure, indeed of constitutional success at all costs. The ramifications of both of these options are very significant for all of us, for our futures and for our children.

There is one agreement, I believe, among many Canadians across the country. It is that a constitutional failure right now might well signal an economic collapse for Canada. As I speak with people from the business community, they tell me how hard it is to attract new investment to Canada right now with all the different things going on. Canada's not considered as safe a place to invest or do business in today as it once was. I'm hearing this across the country, even as the Premier I'm sure heard it in the Far East. Canadians need to understand that this investment we need for jobs and prosperity and how we are viewed around the world as well are important.

People think the world does not notice our constitutional difficulties. I've found that here, and they need to be reminded of that, as they're concerned about their jobs. All you have to do is go down to Bay Street and talk to investment bankers, to money traders, to bond salesmen, to stockbrokers, those who are dealing internationally, and you will find that the world is listening to and is watching what is happening right here in our Constitution in Canada.

Over the past couple of months great headway has been made in developing a Canada package of constitutional reforms, but there are many points yet to be worked out. The Premier has said that he is willing to sit until midnight on the 31st if that's what it takes to iron out an agreement. I applaud his dedication and say I hope that is indeed not necessary.

Since the failure of the Meech Lake accord, my sense from travelling this province is that the mood in Ontario has changed. I do not sense that we any longer have the anger and resentment of spurned suitors across this country, and I'm hearing that from my colleagues across the country. I think as the mood of the rest of Canada has changed, so has the mood in Quebec. Although this weekend saw a large number of separatists protesting outside the office of Premier Bourassa, I believe they were doing so because they sense their support is fading. I think it's important for all of us to realize that this is the climate we are in.

As much as we are haunted by the memory of the Meech Lake accord, this process is not the same process. It's important to tell our constituents across this province that. Some feel it is the same. It is not the same, and those who try to draw analogies between the two are mistaken. I believe it is incumbent upon all of us, because I think

Ontarians are going to have a say and they need to understand this when the time comes for them to have their say.

For a very brief time, I'd like to speak to two specific issues.

To date, there is no agreement on reform of the Senate, whether it should be an equal chamber, as the Premier has said, or an equitable chamber. The Premier has been very strong in his defence of Ontario's position, and he should continue to do so. The Premier and I have spoken briefly on this issue today, and I repeat that today in the House, and I would urge him to re-read and remember the recommendation of our own special committee, which pointed out that the makeup of the Senate is a direct relationship to the powers it holds and its ability to wield those powers.

The second issue is property rights. While the Premier has been forceful in his address of a social charter, I have noticed that the issue of property rights has yet to be resolved.

In the Premier's statement he talked about there being an agreement on a social charter. I want to be very clear so that people don't misunderstand that this is a charter like the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, a charter that can be taken to the courts. A more accurate description is that there is agreement on a social statement of intent by all the provinces, by all the governments represented; that indeed is what there is agreement on. I think calling it a charter can be a little confusing, Premier, in that it is not to be a charter or a right.

However, with that one exception to the Premier's statement today, I urge him to be as vocal a proponent of property rights as he is of a social charter. Again, if the Premier would turn to the Ontario special committee, it offered recommendations, unanimously by all three parties in this Legislature, on wording as to how property rights could be pursued.

**Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs):** Not even the feds want that.

**Mr Harris:** I know that the minister responsible for native affairs, the Minister of Natural Resources, who sits in on these negotiations, will want to reflect the wishes of his own members on the Constitution committee as well.

Finally, in order to forestall comparisons with the closed-door process of the Meech Lake accord, I urge the Premier to take this agreement to the people. I appreciate that, to a degree, that's what he is doing today in the statement he has made to the House, informing Ontarians exactly where we are at. I appreciate the Premier's caution in expressing those agreements, that they're tentative and may be understood a little differently by different people at this time, but I appreciate that he felt it was important Ontarians know what's going on, as opposed to some other processes they've had.

I ask him to strongly give serious consideration to ensuring that Ontarians have an opportunity, through a referendum, to support an agreed-upon package. If there is not a national referendum, that would mean there would be a provincial referendum, as other provinces have already agreed to. I continue to urge the Premier in that direction. I

do not think politicians who are concerned about a referendum need at all fear the judgement of the people. If in good faith and goodwill we negotiate the best possible agreement we can, then I am confident the people of this province and this country will support it.

I say as well that the mood today is very much on the side of resolving the issue, resolving it in a positive manner. Ontarians, even though I have to probe them—they do not bring up the Constitution when we talk about it—do not look for the breakup of this country.

Our caucus will continue to work with you, Mr Premier. We'll work with the Ontario delegation. By working together, I know it is within Canadians to develop a document that will help this great country realize its potential instead of being a barrier to our achieving that potential.

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I neglected to indicate in my remarks, because I wasn't there myself in the capital city of New Brunswick, that the member for Ottawa-Rideau was there representing the Liberal Party. She's also been a very active member of the select committee for a number of years. I want to thank her as well for her participation and I apologize to her publicly for having failed to list her among those who are to be celebrated and commended today.

1500

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### RETAIL STORE HOURS

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** If we can turn to a different but not exactly new topic, I will address my question to the Premier. We are all very well aware the Premier went to the governing council of the New Democratic Party this weekend to get permission in order to change his Sunday shopping legislation in the ways he knows it must be changed.

We understand that some 90% of the governing council voted against the proposed changes. Clearly the Premier did not get the permission he was seeking. I would ask the Premier if he can tell us what he now intends to do with his Sunday shopping legislation and when we can expect him to bring in the changes that he knows are still needed.

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** It's certainly true that there was a meeting of the provincial council of the New Democratic Party on the weekend. I'm sorry the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the third party weren't there, but there you are.

The leader refers to a certain vote tally. I will only tell her that it was a very full discussion and a full debate and that both sides were fully expressed. To the best of my recollection there was no actual vote count at the end of the discussion.

Let me say that she also, I think, characterized it as an attempt by me to ask this group's permission to do something or other. That was not the nature of the discussion at all. It was a part of a very natural consultation, which takes place in a democracy, where we are all here as leaders of political parties and where from time to time our parties

have regular meetings. We're going to be having another one later on in the month of June. That kind of consultation is perfectly natural.

Now, as to what the government is going to do with respect to the Sundays issue, I think I can simply tell the honourable member what I told the public after the meeting and what I told the public before the meeting, that obviously the government is continuing to monitor and review the application of the existing law and that when we have something to announce with respect to that we will let you know.

**Mrs McLeod:** There are not many occasions on which I would have enjoyed spending a beautiful Saturday afternoon at a meeting of the NDP governing council, but I would certainly have enjoyed an invitation to participate in that one, at least to hear the debate itself.

While the NDP and the members of this caucus and government go back and forth with their seemingly endless and anguished philosophical debate, I think it's only too possible for us to not realize how serious the situation is in this province. It was just last week that the Hudson's Bay Co announced the loss of 60 jobs, stating there is no question that the lack of Sunday shopping has certainly played a major role. If that doesn't get results shortly, there probably will be more of this.

The Premier's lack of leadership on this issue is unprecedented. While he dithers there are retailers going bankrupt, there are employees losing their jobs and municipalities are in an absolute quandary as they await the NDP announcement of the week. I would ask, Mr Speaker, in saying to the Premier that retailers need to know what he's going to do to prevent further job losses, will he recognize how urgent this situation is and will he act now to ensure that municipalities have a real freedom of choice to open their stores on Sunday to prevent further job losses?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I appreciate the advice and certainly, if I may say so, fully anticipated the criticism. I think perhaps the Leader of the Opposition, if she were being fair, would recognize that all three parties in the House have held government since the mid-1970s. All have wrestled with this issue as public opinion has changed and evolved, and I can honestly say to the leader that we continue to look at this situation very closely and are obviously continuing to monitor the application of the current law and the response of the various retailers and the private sector to it.

I would also say to her that I'm also hearing from a number of businesses—I think it's only fair to report this directly to her; indeed I think it was the member for St George-St David who referred to the situation of a so-called corner store, what I think he referred to as mom-and-pop operations—in terms of their response to the difficulty.

Interjection.

**Hon Mr Rae:** The member for Oriole refers in a pejorative way to backflips. I want to say to the honourable member that we have to assess the application of the current law and that we have to assess the balances that can fairly be struck. Any government has a responsibility to do this and that's exactly what we're doing.

**Mrs McLeod:** That simply sounds like a very long definition of the word "stall."

If the Premier is still looking for advice, I would suggest that he simply address the realities of today, which I think he understands very well, although he does not seem to be responding to them. The realities today are that 70% of Ontarians want to see Sunday shopping, that there are countless students who are going to be unemployed this summer who would like to have the job opportunities Sunday work would bring and that retailers need to be able to open their stores on Sundays to combat the effects of the recession, which is putting so many of them out of business.

I would ask the Premier simply to assure the people of this province that he will respond to the stated interests of 70% of the people of this province, the wishes of students looking for summer jobs, the retailers who need to open for their economic survival. Will he finally take a leadership role on this issue and withdraw what has clearly been shown to be unworkable and unenforceable legislation and start to end the utter frustration everyone is feeling?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I listened carefully to the comments that are being made by the Leader of the Opposition, and I can only tell her that what she has to say and what the various members of the Liberal Party have to say, in all their wonderful variety, will of course be taken into account in any review by the government.

#### FOOD BANKS

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** Again to the Premier: I would ask the Premier if he can explain why he has refused to meet with the Daily Bread Food Bank despite numerous requests, such as the one in this letter, which is dated April 21, 1992.

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I have not refused to meet with the Daily Bread Food Bank. I've not ever refused to meet with the Daily Bread Food Bank. There may be a problem with exactly when that can happen, and I have encouraged them and encouraged the Minister of Community and Social Services to meet with them as soon as possible. I have never refused to meet with the Daily Bread Food Bank.

**Mrs McLeod:** I'm glad that the Premier was at least aware that the Daily Bread Food Bank had made a particular request to meet with him in order to accept, on behalf of his government, the used food bags that have been prepared with comments from contributors. It's our understanding that similar requests were made to the federal government and that the federal government responded by receiving those bags within a week of the request being made and that this government, if not in fact refusing, at least has not seen fit to carry out that meeting yet and, as I understand it, the next meeting—the only meeting—is scheduled into July.

It would seem to us that this government that was going to get rid of food banks within a year now seems surprisingly reluctant to even meet with people from the food bank community to hear what their concerns are, and I would ask the Premier why his government feels it no longer needs to listen to the people of this province on a problem that has grown absolutely out of control. Further,

why did they not keep a commitment that was made in this House on April 14, 1992, to meet with these people to begin to seek immediate and achievable solutions to the food bank problem?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I indicated, I think, in answers to questions the member has previously asked—and I'm interested that her first question is, "Why have you refused to meet with them?" and then in her preamble to her second question she admits that I didn't refuse to meet with them. So she knew that when she made the allegation in the House with respect to the situation.

I've said in the House and in answer to the request that was made earlier by the member that I was asking the Minister of Community and Social Services to meet with them as soon as possible. That remains the case. I will try to meet with people and I will make every effort to meet with people. I've tried to be as accessible as possible in terms of time, and I will continue to do that, and I've urged the minister of Comsoc to meet with them as soon as possible, and continue to do that.

**Mrs McLeod:** In fact I was listening very carefully to the Premier's first response to my question, in which he denied that he had refused to meet with the food bank people. Our understanding from the food bank people was that the Premier himself was unwilling to meet with them in order to receive the food bags they wanted to present and that he asked the Minister of Community and Social Services to meet with them and that a meeting has not yet taken place and is not likely to take place until July. I was simply acknowledging the Premier's interpretation that this is not a refusal. It simply seems to be an unwillingness to meet, or a fact of being too busy to meet with people concerned about the food bank issues.

I'll just take a moment, if I may, since the Premier did not have time to meet with the food bank people, to ask one of the pages to deliver these bags to the Premier so he will in fact have an opportunity to read the comments of people who have made a contribution to trying to deal with this growing problem.

We wonder if the reason the government is so reluctant to meet with the food bank people is because it simply doesn't want to acknowledge how grim the reality is out there, or is it because it simply has no response to the kinds of concerns these people are raising?

I would tell the Premier, since obviously he has not had a chance to read the comments, of just one of those comments he can read on the bags. This is a quote from one of the individuals, who said, "It's food, not empty words, that feeds people's empty stomachs."

1510

We need action to create jobs; we need action to keep the already working working; we need action to stop allowing business to close. As the unemployment situation grows, as more and more people are forced to use food banks and as people from the food bank community desperately seek at least a meeting to be able to discuss what response this government could make, I ask the Premier how he intends to respond to these concerns.

**Hon Mr Rae:** We think we are responding.

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole):** Well, you're not.

**Hon Mr Rae:** The member may disagree, and she's certainly entitled to disagree, and for purposes of partisan debate in this House, I'm not surprised that she would. But I think if any fairminded, objective person looked at what we have done in this government the last year and a half with respect to dealing with our resources, focusing our resources in as fair a way as possible, looking hard at what we've done with respect to the minimum wage, with respect to pay equity, with respect to the action we've taken on wage protection—things the previous government never even looked at, never even considered, was unprepared to deal with, that piled up during its time, and it had more money coming in than it knew what to do with.

We are now facing a situation where the Liberal Party on one day says, "Spend, spend, spend," and on the next day is slamming us for the size of the deficit. We have to manage this problem. We are doing what we can to focus attention on those who need it most, and we will continue to do so.

#### RETAIL STORE HOURS

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** We have lost nearly 1,000 retail businesses in the past year. Last week the Bay in Toronto laid off 60 clerks and supervisors. Mr Premier, every day you vacillate on the issue of Sunday shopping we lose millions more dollars to border communities. We understand the Premier has a problem, we understand he got his marching orders from the council on the weekend, and he perhaps wishes to challenge those. Could the Premier tell us this: When can we expect a definitive statement on Sunday shopping one way or the other in this province?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I can only say in response to the question from the leader of the third party, which is identical in substance to the one I've just heard from the Leader of the Opposition, that we are continuing to monitor the application of the current law and that obviously we are talking intensively to people who are in the industry and to consumers, getting various aspects of public opinion to get a sense of what people think is the fairest outcome.

**Mr Harris:** Do you think it's fair, Premier, to send out signals to business—one day your Solicitor General says, "We're going to be tough on Sunday shopping and enforce the law." The next day he says, "Oh, the police might not have time to charge them this Sunday." One day your Treasurer sends out the signal: "Well, you know, it's under active reconsideration. We can read the polls. We know what 70% of the people want." The next day he says, "Oh, we're going to enforce the law."

Do you think it's fair we send out these signals that, well, you know, maybe the law is kind of unworkable and unfair and then at the same time we continue to persecute Paul Magder, whose only crime is fulfilling what 70% of people in this province want, and that is to be able to shop on Sunday? Premier, do you think that's fair? Do you think it's fair to Paul Magder? Do you think it's fair to businesses to say one thing one day and another thing the next

day? Do you think it's fair to keep sending out all those mixed signals?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I'm sure an enterprising researcher, if he wanted to know what vacillation, change, different opinions and the prosecution of some and not of others looks like, would only have to look at the positions taken by the Conservative Party of Ontario on this issue over the last 10 years.

The member has been here for slightly longer than I have. His record of service in the Legislature is a little longer than mine, but we're both roughly at the 10- or 11-year mark in terms of our membership in this Legislature. I can recall differing positions being taken by the government of which he was a member: speculation by Mr Grossman, the Leader of the Opposition subsequent to 1985, then the report that came out from your member from Oakville, who came out with a very different position, and then the position which was taken by your party in the by-election which elected the member for London North in 1987. I can remember a whole variety of positions.

I will readily admit to the member opposite that obviously opinion in the province is divided and managing this issue has proven difficult for whatever government was in power. We're doing the very best we can to resolve this question.

**Mr Harris:** I'm not sure the people of Ontario are looking for the answer from the Premier as to what others have done for 42 years. I think they elected you to govern.

Let me say very unequivocally, as leader of my party, that my caucus favours wide-open Sunday shopping. That's our position. That is my position as leader, that is what I would do if I were Premier, and that position is very clear. Let there be no doubt about it: That is the position our caucus has taken. Our caucus has taken positions, articulated them and put them out for all to see and has not vacillated.

Mr Premier, given the marching orders you got from your council, the ones who put you in as Premier, as leader, and the ones who guarantee you the money—your caucus is widely split on this and you obviously can't come to an agreement—would you not agree with me that you have an obligation, in the absence of your own leadership, to at least present the matter for a free vote in this Legislature?

**Hon Mr Rae:** The leader of the third party says he would prefer it if I didn't bring up all the different positions the Conservative Party has taken over the years. I'm sure he would prefer that I didn't remind people of the fact that this issue wasn't instantly or magically resolved when his party was in government and when he was a minister of the crown. It wasn't magically resolved when the former government was in power. It is something we are still dealing with as a government. I will say to the honourable member that any views he presents will obviously be taken into account.

**Mr Harris:** You can bring up the 42-year record. I'll tell you, it looks pretty good across the province. Bring it up every day because it will help me in 1994 and 1995. If,

instead of giving a free vote or answering the question, you want to refer to the 42-year record, I'm happy to have you do that.

#### ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** My second question as well is to the Premier. Last week my office received a phone call from a Toronto woman who had attempted to lodge a complaint with the Ontario Human Rights Commission. When she phoned that office last Tuesday, no one was interested in hearing about her situation. Last September the Minister of Citizenship announced \$6.4 million to assist the commission in dealing with complaints. That was eight months ago. Can the Premier explain to me why no one would hear the woman's case last Tuesday?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I'm sure the leader of the third party would say it would be fair for me to refer the instant case to the minister and ask her to respond. She is not here today. Obviously I can't respond to the particulars of the case without knowing the particulars of the case, except to say that of course we expect the commission to respond in situations and we hope and expect it will do so.

**Mr Harris:** My office contacted the Ontario Human Rights Commission on the woman's behalf. We were told by two separate commission staff that the commission does not take complaints on Tuesdays and Thursdays, that this in fact is government policy, that this was a new policy brought into place by this government and that it has been in place now for a year.

Premier, this bureaucratic insensitivity is unacceptable for a commission charged with eliminating discrimination in this province. Will you take steps immediately to rectify this ridiculous situation where complainants are told, "Sorry, you can't complain on Tuesday and Thursday"?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I will certainly undertake to inquire into all the particulars that have been raised by the leader of the third party.

1520

**Mr Harris:** The Premier will know this is not the first time we've heard complaints about the Ontario Human Rights Commission. In fact, it's getting to the point where people feel it is hopeless to lay complaints at all. We have a problem with the commission.

You and the Liberals, by the way, have thrown about \$10 million at this problem since 1988, yet no one can make a complaint on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The staff themselves are not happy campers at the Human Rights Commission. The staff themselves are frustrated with a policy that goes against the very spirit for which they were hired, the very spirit of the commission. The problems seem to be getting worse. The more millions you throw at it, the worse the problem is.

Will you agree with me in this, that throwing more money without looking at the actual policies in place and the direction of the Human Rights Commission is not going to make the situation any better, and will you personally investigate what is going on at the Ontario Human Rights Commission?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I thank the member for the question, together with the member for Mississauga South, who sits behind him, who has pointed out problems with respect to the Human Rights Commission over the years when we were in opposition together. Since that time she's persisted, even when we formed the government, to continue to raise these issues.

I would say to the honourable member that the fact that there are problems at the Human Rights Commission is precisely why we've appointed Mary Cornish to give us a report as soon as possible with respect to administrative and other broad questions with respect to why there have been problems over the years and what we can do about them in terms of improving the workings of the board and of the commission, as well as looking at the question you've raised, which is, is there a connection—there must be—between the substantive question of the substance of the law and the Human Rights Code and the degree of the administrative problems which the commission continues to have? It has them now, it had them before and it's had them for some time. It needs to be resolved and we will certainly continue to look at it. I will, as I say, look into the particulars that have been raised by the leader of the third party.

#### YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** My question is also to the leader of the government and it concerns job opportunities for young Ontarians, particularly as they face the summer of 1992.

Mr Premier, your own government has just released a report on summer employment prospects for young Ontarians between the ages of 15 and 24. This report, released just a very few days ago, tells us that young people in this province will face the toughest time they've faced in over 10 years. I spent last week travelling around eastern Ontario, and more and more young people expressed to me their despair and their despondency at what they were being told as to what was available or, more important, what was not available for employment this summer.

I would ask you, Mr Premier, what specific measures will you undertake to address the very bleak employment prospects facing tens of thousands of young Ontarians who are coming out of high school or out of college or university, looking for either a summer job or a first job? Your own report indicates that youth unemployment this summer will be higher than at any point in the last 11 years, higher even than the worst of the recession in 1982-83.

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I say in all sincerity to the member that I appreciate the question. There are some things we're doing which I'm sure I can tell him about; I don't know whether he will think it's enough. I don't think it's enough, and it's precisely because I don't think it's enough that I've asked the member for St Andrew-St Patrick to give us a report as soon as possible with respect to youth employment programs in the province. She's been having intensive meetings with a number of groups, including municipalities and the private sector, and we've had a

number of very positive meetings with the private sector to address this problem.

I would point out that the Futures program, at nearly \$100 million, will provide about 25,000 young people with jobs. The Environmental Youth Corps will employ about 3,000 young people, at \$11 million. Youth employment counselling centres will provide counselling and job placement of about 33,000 clients, with an allocation of \$7.8 million. Youth venture capital programs will create about 5,000 jobs in new businesses created by young people. The summer trades Experience program will serve about 450 youths, with an allocation of \$500,000. Summer employment and part-time Experience programs assist youth who are at risk of becoming dependent on social assistance, and the school workplace apprenticeship program is being expanded to help more young people. That, we think, will help about 1,000 people.

Having said that, let me say to the member that I don't think that's enough. It's precisely because it's not enough and precisely because the situation we face is unprecedented that I've asked my parliamentary assistant to give me a report, which she will do. I know it's coming very soon. As soon as I have that report from her, we are then going to be in a position to respond and do more in cooperation with the private sector—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Could the Premier conclude his response, please.

**Hon Mr Rae:** —municipalities and, I hope, the federal government.

**Mr Conway:** I appreciate the Premier's concern, but he has a report, a very good report, provided by his own Ministry of Labour, which takes into account a number of the factors he's referred to.

Many of us are finding that in fact there are fewer jobs in those categories of Futures and the Environmental Youth Corps this year than last. In fact, the report released last week by the Ministry of Labour says, among other things, "The labour market for young people in Ontario in the summer of 1992 will be a very difficult one because of the cyclical downturn and fewer number of job opportunities."

Those young people are on the streets now, Mr Premier. You have an excellent report. My question remains: What specific measures for the tens of thousands of young people are you prepared to contemplate, not in August or September 1992 but on May 25, 1992, when those young people are coming out of school, out of college and out of university and need the jobs, which is now?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I appreciate very much the directness of the member and I fully support his intentions. I can tell him that we will be responding. When he asks, "Will you be responding in August or September?" the answer to that is no, we will be responding before the summer begins. We will be responding as aggressively as we can within some limits, in terms of what we can afford to do because of the overall financial situation facing the government.

But we certainly do recognize that the problem facing our young people today and the immediate problem of youth unemployment is a priority for the government; it's

one we have to respond to as a government. As I say, we want to mobilize the private sector and others in helping us to deal with it.

I appreciate the directness with which he's raised the question.

#### TVONTARIO

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** My question is to the Minister of Culture and Communications. Madam Minister, you certainly are aware, I know, of the recent fund-raising done by TVOntario. This was their major event for this spring. During that time the new director of TVOntario, Mr Herrndorf, talked in an interview about his new style and the fact that he was executing spending controls; in other words, everything in the ship was fine, finally, in TVOntario.

I have here a copy of an advertisement that was handed out in Cannes, France. It's an ad in Buyer Profile, apparently handed out to delegates and visitors to Cannes. In this ad it talks about: "A last call for entries honouring outstanding achievement in educational television. TVOntario is pleased to invite producers of educational television programming from Canada and around the world to enter the 1992 TVOntario awards competition. Winners in each of six categories will receive \$5,000 and the grand prize winner will receive \$50,000."

Madam Minister, do you think this kind of promotion and competition is a wise use of the taxpayers' money in this province through the government grants and the pledges of the public in support of TVOntario?

**Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications):** I have every support for Mr Peter Herrndorf. As the member has mentioned, he is certainly a very good appointment to this position. He handles a majority budget. His is an agency of the ministry. As such, I am pleased to see that he is making some changes in TVO.

I am not aware of this particular advertisement. Obviously an agency does have a board of directors that the government appoints, but it is the board of directors that runs the agency per se. I can find out more information about this particular advertisement if she wishes and report back to the member.

1530

**Mrs Marland:** This minister can't palm this off on the board of directors. The minister stood in this House last year in answer to my questions and assured the people of Ontario that they didn't have to worry any more about the misspending and all the excesses that were going on in TVOntario because Mr Bernard Ostry, of course, was going, and then finally he was gone, and you're not even answering this question today.

It's obvious that the Bernie Ostry legend lives on. I'm not talking about Mr Herrndorf; I'm talking about you and your personal commitment to the people of Ontario. I'm simply asking, with the auditor's report identifying excesses in spending last year, how you can condone this kind of promotion worldwide of a television network in Ontario whose mandate is educational broadcasting in Ontario. If you think it's okay for Mr Herrndorf to authorize this kind of spending, that's your opinion; it's not ours.

We're concerned that you go out to the public, ask people to pledge support and then go and spend money to the tune of \$80,000 in a worldwide competition that is not within the mandate of TVOntario.

I ask you, Madam Minister, what you plan to do about this kind of promotion worldwide that has nothing to do with the taxpayers and is of no benefit to the people who have pledged their funds in Ontario.

**Hon Mrs Haslam:** TVO is known worldwide; I will agree with that. They do show many different videos and films at TVO. The board has certainly addressed the auditor's report. I and the board have worked together in addressing the concerns of the auditor's report. The new chair is certainly capable of taking TVO into the next century. I have already indicated to the member that I will check into this particular advertisement for her, and I will report back to the member.

#### FUEL SUBSTITUTION

**Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East):** My question this afternoon is for the Minister of Energy. Mr Minister, in the riding of Durham East there are a lot of people very unhappy over the cost of electric heating. They say there was some incentive program that they thought was going to allow them to get off electric heating and use more energy-efficient heating. I'm asking you, Mr Minister, on behalf of the people I represent, have you got a program? Is something going to happen to help these folks get off electric heating?

**Hon Brian A. Charlton (Acting Minister of Energy):** The member, I would assume, is referring to some of the debate that has gone on in this House around Bill 118 over the last year and the ability of Ontario Hydro to participate in fuel substitution programs.

I should inform the member, first of all, that Bill 118 has not passed yet, so currently Hydro does not yet have the legal authority to participate in fuel substitution programs. There are no incentives presently in place. Ontario Hydro is involved in discussions with the gas industry and other stakeholders in the energy sector who are involved in other alternative fuel sources that could adequately replace the use of electric heat. We hope to see some programs in place, but we first need to see Bill 118 pass.

**Mr Mills:** Mr Minister, the people in Durham East are getting testier by the minute. When can we expect Bill 118 to be passed? Can you give me some—

**Hon Mr Charlton:** Mr Speaker, as you well know, that's something I can't predict precisely for the member. The members across the way have made it clear that they weren't in any rush to see Bill 118 pass. It was introduced last June by my colleague the member for Peterborough and still has not received third reading. We'll be pushing to get it passed as quickly as we can this spring and get on with the implementation of programs.

#### USE OF OPP VEHICLES

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** My question is to the Premier. Premier, we have some folks who were quite shocked, on the morning of May 17, to tell us they saw an OPP helicopter landing in the town park in

Portland in eastern Ontario, at which time they saw you disembark from that OPP helicopter and promptly jump into a boat for a short ride out to your family island in Big Rideau Lake. Then, in the afternoon on May 18, apparently you were brought back ashore, at which time the same OPP helicopter picked you up and whisked you away to places unknown.

Premier, can you confirm to this House that indeed those travel arrangements to your family cottage are accurate?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I can, and perhaps, since you will no doubt have a supplementary, I can describe them to the member.

When I took office I was told by the Secretary of Cabinet and by the head of the OPP, as well as by my security staff, that there would be times and occasions when taking the OPP helicopter would be the only way I could get any time available or be able to be with my family on short notice.

When I returned from Japan, I was due to go to a meeting with the governors of the Great Lakes states the next day and I had not seen my children for about eight days. For a 24-hour trip to my family cottage, I did make use of the OPP helicopter, which I'm told on reliable information I have used about a quarter or a third—about to 20% to 25%—as much as previous holders of this office, including the former leader of your party and the former Premier of the province.

I will say to the House that balancing time is a hard choice. I use an OPP car. For my trips I have a government car I use. It takes a significant period of time to get to my cottage. It was the long weekend. It was frankly the quickest and fastest way for me to do it.

Even though I knew full well and know full well that any use by me of that plane or of the Ministry of Natural Resources plane, which I also use from time to time, will be subject to criticism, I will also say to the honourable member that—I have to think about this carefully in what I say, but there are really very few moments a Premier gets to spend time with his family. If I ever felt that a use of the helicopter was in any way taking away from its use in any other circumstance, I would never use it. But even though no doubt there will be a headline tomorrow and I knew full well what the headline might or might not be, I also have to say to the member that in living in this glass house in which I live as the leader of the government, I do have to have some family time and occasionally I will be using the OPP plane and occasionally I will be using the MNR plane. If the member wants to criticize me for it or other members want to challenge me for it, I say I really don't think any other person holding this office would exercise his or her responsibilities in a different way, and I've checked it with the head of the OPP, I've checked it with the Secretary of Cabinet—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the Premier conclude his response, please.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I've been as careful as I can with respect to the use of these planes, and I will say to the

honourable member that that's the way I've decided to do it. It's been a very conscious decision on my part.

**Mr Mahoney:** The Premier would understand that it's not terribly significant if one member or a couple of members of this place decide to criticize him for use of an OPP helicopter. What is really significant is that the people in Portland, Ontario, were extremely shocked to see this event take place: landing in the park in the town and then going out the next day.

I can appreciate the difficulties of scheduling all members of this House have, and the Premier would have even greater difficulty. Our concern, however, I might add, stems from the fact that this government has shown no economic leadership, that it has made cutbacks in OPP transfer payments, that it has made cutbacks to the OPP in the service levels all across the province, yet the Premier feels it's appropriate to use the OPP helicopter as a taxi service to his private family retreat. I don't think that's proper use, and I think anybody in public office has to make arrangements to get together with his family and should not be using something as important as public transportation, in the form of an OPP helicopter, in these times of constraint, to be whisked off to a cottage in eastern Ontario.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I can honestly say that I think I've given as clear an account as I can to the House. I've given the answer that I can. The good people of Portland, who have known me since I was five years old and who have seen me grow up from a small boy to the Premier of the province, will have a way of expressing themselves with respect to the member's question, as will the people of the province, as they reflect on what is involved in being Premier and the balances you have to strike. I've made my decision, I've given an explanation to the House, and that's all I can say to the honourable member.

**Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South):** I think we all become better members when we spend more time with our families.

1540

#### CHILDREN'S SERVICES

**Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South):** My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. Minister, last week you made an announcement—it was Thursday, in fact—that children's aid societies, assaulted women and the services they require, and our citizens with developmental disabilities will only receive a 0.5% budget increase. It is worthy of note, Minister, that you chose a time when no one was in this House and no one was able to respond to this announcement, but obviously the reaction has been swift and it has been severe. Some organizations that are providing essential services in this province are saying they will be devastated by your decision.

Minister, you will be familiar with the fact that the Child and Family Services Act, section 15, details at length a whole series of required protections for children in this province, mandated by law and administered by children's aid societies. Can you ensure, Madam Minister, having made this statement last week, the announcement of a

0.5% increase, that children in Ontario will be protected and that vulnerable children will not continue to be at risk as a result of your announcement?

**Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues):** The member aptly expresses concern and certainly knows from the discussions we have had in this House how concerned we are about maintaining services in the face of the budgetary difficulties we face. I have been working with about 7,000 transfer payment agencies that my ministry funds to try to encourage them to look at this time as a time that's very different from times in the past. So it is not without warning that those transfer payment agencies received the information last Wednesday of the transfer payments.

In terms of mandatory services for children, the process of budgeting we have with children's aid societies is currently under review. There is a process called the exceptional circumstance review. The base budget from last year for those societies will have a 0.5% increase to it and then the exceptional circumstance review money that was allocated this year goes into their base budgets on top of that. So that will relieve some of the pressure. In addition, the member will note from the estimates that there is provision for further exceptional circumstance review during this current fiscal year while we are reorganizing the funding of children's aid societies.

**Mr Jackson:** The minister quotes estimates. The minister will also be aware of the document that was released the day before the treasury board meeting, that she has yet to find millions and millions of dollars of additional cuts she's going to be required to make. So the prospects of being able to assist CASs are pretty remote or pretty dim at best.

Minister, virtually every children's aid society in Ontario is currently operating with a large deficit. Although there's been some recognition of this, the fact still remains that deficits are a function of increased demand, and this is a legitimate demand. Earlier, all parties in this House referred to how vulnerable children are and the requirement to ensure their protection. In Halton, for example, we're looking at an 11.5% increase in the case load of children at risk: physically abused children up 60%; sexually abused children up 35%; foetal alcohol and drug-dependent newborn children up significantly in the greater Toronto area—all CAS.

Given those circumstances of increased demand, how can you assure this House that you're going to be able to deal with the requirements of the law to protect children, which is your mandate and your responsibility as minister, and which your government has been duly charged with, to protect those children? How are you going to ensure their safety?

**Hon Mrs Boyd:** I certainly don't doubt that it's a challenge, and certainly we will be working very strongly with our associations; in fact, we have been over the last year and a half, because this is not a new problem. This is a problem that associations have experienced again and again, and we recognize that the way in which the societies

are funded is completely out of whack with the kind of work they are being required to do under the Child and Family Services Act. The funding formula was never changed when the act was changed, so the requirements are not in any way met by the former government's formula. We know that's a challenge.

We are working with the children's aid societies. Unfortunately, some of the non-mandatory services of the societies may well suffer. But they know they have an obligation and we know we have an obligation to meet those mandatory requirements, and I can assure the member that we will continue to do so.

#### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot):** My question is to the Minister of Labour. Right now in Kitchener-Waterloo we have a group called the Kitchener-Waterloo Injured Workers' Group and it has been operating on a shoestring. It's my understanding that there are 20 such groups across the province that are trying to help injured workers in various capacities because now they've pretty well reached their limit and they don't know where to go. Is there any intention to provide bloc funding to these groups that are operating on a shoestring so they can provide the assistance to the injured workers across the province of Ontario?

**Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour):** The injured workers' groups in the province of Ontario have within the last two or three weeks approached our ministry as to whether or not there was funding that could be available and a role that they could play in terms of some of the problems of the Workers' Compensation Board and some of the service problems. We are taking a serious look at that. I could not give them any commitment in this year's budget, but we did say we would take a serious look at it and discuss it with them over the next few weeks.

#### ÉDUCATION EN FRANÇAIS

**M. Bernard Grandmaitre (Ottawa-Est) :** Ma question s'adresse aujourd'hui au ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones.

Monsieur le ministre, vous avez assisté cet après-midi à la manifestation qui s'est produite devant la porte principale. Étaient regroupés des jeunes Franco-Ontariens et Franco-Ontariennes qui étaient sensiblement nerveux et qui voulaient connaître davantage les sentiments que vous avez envers le réseau des collèges francophones en Ontario.

Vous avez demandé à la communauté francophone d'être encore patiente. Pourtant, vous avez réaffirmé, lors du Sommet de la francophonie qui a eu lieu en juin 1991, votre engagement envers un réseau de collèges francophones. À ce moment-là, vous avez annoncé que, «Dans quelques semaines, vous aurez de mes nouvelles.»

Ça fait 52 semaines de ça et la communauté francophone attend encore. Finies les belles paroles, les belles promesses. Monsieur le ministre, je vous demande : quand allez-vous passer à l'action ?

**L'hon Gilles Pouliot (ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones) :** Jamais je n'aurais cru, comme ça s'est produit ce matin pendant cette journée de printemps ensoleillée, voir

nos jeunes Franco-Ontariens venir ici nous rappeler, non par dizaines mais par centaines, le succès colossal de la Cité collégiale, où on avait invité tout le monde et encore plus s'étaient présentés.

Ils nous ont rappelé aussi qu'à l'échelle de l'inscription pour septembre prochain, nous sommes déjà à l'excès de 5500 jeunes Franco-Ontariens qui demandent non moins que leur place sous le soleil, la chance d'être comme les autres, et qu'on leur donne les outils, à travers un système d'éducation, pour leur permettre de s'intégrer économiquement et de se défendre en société.

Maintenant, en guise de conclusion à la question de mon collègue, nous évoluons ici un effort collectif. Ce qui se produit, c'est que nos amis au fédéral, avec nous à l'échelle provinciale, parce qu'ici on parle de partage et nous sommes enfin arrivés — nous avons rencontré, avec quelques collègues, M. de Cotret à Ottawa il y a deux semaines — à un stage crucial de négociations. L'important ici, c'est la question de partage. Mais ce qui est encore plus important, c'est la dimension humaine, et de plus en plus important aussi, c'est la chance sous le soleil pour nos jeunes Franco-Ontariens. Le dossier avance ; on s'en occupe.

1550

**M. Hans Daigeler (Nepean) :** Ministre, c'est encore des paroles. On veut de l'action. Comme toujours, vous déployez toute votre éloquence, mais vos mots sont vides.

Faut-il que je lui rappelle que c'est son gouvernement qui a mis à pied 78 enseignants franco-ontariens il y a deux semaines seulement ? C'est ce ministre qui nous a promis de prendre une décision concernant les collèges francophones en juin dernier. Rien n'a été dit encore dans cette Chambre sur le financement et les échéances de l'établissement d'un collège dans le nord ou dans le sud.

Les Franco-Ontariens et les Franco-Ontariennes veulent une réponse. Ils veulent de l'action et pas seulement des paroles. Dites-nous, Monsieur le ministre : est-ce que votre promesse va s'ajouter à la liste déjà très longue des promesses non tenues, voire rompues, de votre gouvernement ?

**L'hon M. Pouliot :** Nous aussi avons hâte de voir le dossier aboutir. Nous sommes fort conscients que dans notre communauté franco-ontarienne, c'est le dossier qui presse le plus. C'est celui qui est le plus important, et le plus épineux aussi, bien sûr. Le rapport Bordeleau nous a dit deux choses. Suite, encore une fois, au succès de la Cité collégiale, le rapport Bordeleau y ajoutait et reconnaissait le besoin d'avoir deux autres collèges, l'un dans le nord et aussi — vous l'avez deviné — l'un dans le sud/sud-ouest de l'Ontario.

Je vous demanderais, avec tout le respect qu'on vous doit, d'être un peu plus patient. Nous en sommes rendus à un stage crucial de négociations. Il faut regarder l'avenir avec confiance. Nous, on le fait de notre côté ; on vous invite à nous joindre.

#### ACID GAS EMISSION CONTROL

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham) :** I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. On May 7, all three parties and members in the House agreed to a resolution that I had tabled in the Legislature for guidelines on

emissions: that they be enhanced and extended in the Countdown Acid Rain program.

To date we have seen a tremendous improvement by the four large emitters. Falconbridge, Ontario Hydro, Algoma Steel and Inco have successfully reduced their emission levels to significantly decrease the amount of acid gases entering the atmosphere. Indeed, we commend them for their efforts. Yet after 1994, there is no schedule for the reduction of acid gases. We're looking for a schedule to be developed as a guideline for industry at that time. There is a great need for those guidelines to be established and for some way of restricting the amount of acid gas being exposed in the atmosphere to be put in place. I ask the minister: Do you support the resolution that we passed in the Legislature on May 7 on the Countdown Acid Rain program being extended?

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment) :** I regret that I don't have the precise wording of the resolution in front of me, so whether I support it in its entirety or not I can't at this moment say.

I want to say to the member that I certainly support the principle of continuing with the very effective work begun by my predecessor the member for St Catharines in dealing with acid rain in this province. I'm delighted that, as the member has noted, the four major emitters have met the schedules and have committed themselves to significantly reducing their emissions post-1994. We are in the process of developing a comprehensive approach to emissions for sources beyond the four big ones post-1994.

**Mr Cousens :** That's really what the resolution dealt with. I'm disappointed the minister was not aware of the details of the resolution. To some degree, the resolution was based largely on committee work in which you were involved years ago when you were with the New Democrats in opposition. The fact of the matter is that this Legislature gave a strong statement of endorsement to those resolutions that there be a post-1994 strategy for this government on the Countdown Acid Rain program. That was the thrust of the resolution. Indeed, the four major polluters that have done something about it are only part of the problem. Those others have to begin to be dealt with.

If you support the intent—primarily that's what a resolution on private members' day is all about—of there being a post-1994 program, I'd like to urge upon you and your government to table legislation for amendments to the Countdown Acid Rain program to extend these emission guidelines to all emitters of acid gases. When will an action plan be tabled in the Legislature for a post-1994 Countdown Acid Rain program?

**Hon Mrs Grier :** Let there be no mistake. I entirely support the thrust of that resolution. Obviously there has to be an air strategy post-1994. What I intended to convey to the member in response to his first question was that we are currently in the throes of preparing just such a comprehensive strategy. I entirely concur that there has to be an action plan. I can assure him that one will be announced by my ministry as soon as we have completed the work within our ministry and consulted with my colleagues in both the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Northern

Development about the large four emitters of the bulk of the acid gas emissions but also with respect to industries right across this province.

#### DRINKING AND DRIVING

**Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland):** My question is for the Attorney General. I'm grateful he has taken his seat. Last Friday, May 15, I had an opportunity to meet with some students and staff at Cobourg District Collegiate Institute West. They presented me with these 814 letters concerning the Arrive Alive grants from your ministry. I ask, please, that a page come and deliver them to the minister.

In recent years, with the assistance of the Ministry of the Attorney General, the CDCI West group of Students Against Driving Drunk, known as SADD, has been a very visible and active contributor in the effort to combat drinking and driving. The students have joined many other people right across this province to raise awareness of and to combat this serious social problem. I'm sure you will join me in congratulating them for their most successful efforts to date.

Now for the devastating news. This year the ministry drastically reduced the funding for this program. In the previous two years the students received \$1,000 and \$800 respectively. This year, Minister, you have slashed the funding to \$250. That is 75% since you became Attorney General. Is it your intention, Minister, to eventually eliminate altogether what appears to be a winning battle by these students against impaired driving?

**Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General):** It appears again that in answering an opposition member's question we have to refer to the facts. The program is expanding around the province. We are attempting to provide funds to more schools. That in part has led to situations where every school that has had funds in the past may not receive the funds this year that it had in the past. We're trying to stretch the budget we have to more schools.

I think it is elementary—I think everyone in Canada, perhaps in North America, understands this—that every government on the continent is stretching the available funds as far as it possibly can. We are doing that in individual programs in the Ministry of the Attorney General. I would say, given the funds we have available, we've done a wonderful job of stretching those funds to provide the best services we can to the most schools we can reach around the province.

1600

**Mrs Fawcett:** Minister, these students have built up good relationships. They have provided service from their dances all night long. This government could see fit to spend \$2.5 million to move the cabinet offices to the Whitney Block and it could spend \$1 million to advertise and install the NDP propaganda line, but it cannot give these students a few hundred dollars to continue their very important program.

How can you justify these cuts? What will you have me tell the students who have fought hard to protect Ontarians from car accidents and drinking-and-driving fatalities?

**Hon Mr Hampton:** As I've indicated, we are using the grants available through the Ministry of the Attorney General countermeasures office to reach more schools. We are doing more partnership work with more community interest groups and organizations than ever before.

I should again point out to the member opposite that the government, yes, does have to spend money from time to time in communicating with Canadians and Ontarians about some of the important issues it is involved in with respect to the economy and with respect to the Constitution. I would regard those as legitimate expenditures.

It's also true that this chamber we are in now is undergoing renovation. That's only responsible expenditure of taxpayers' money. It's only responsible maintenance of the buildings that are part of the public heritage of Ontario. For the member to complain about that I think is just clearly not on base and clearly distorts the actual issues we're trying to deal with.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Time for oral questions has expired.

#### PETITIONS

##### RENT REGULATION

**Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte):** I have a petition that I would like to present from a number of people not only from my riding but other ridings throughout the rest of the province, and it reads:

"To the Legislature of Ontario:

"Whereas the proposed Rent Control Act, Bill 121, will prevent apartment owners from carrying out needed repairs to apartment buildings; and

"Whereas this law, if enacted, will be detrimental to the interests of tenants and landlords across the province; and

"Whereas the rent freeze legislation, Bill 4, has already put thousands of workers on the unemployment rolls and Bill 121 threatens the permanent loss of 25,000 jobs,

"Therefore, we the undersigned petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"To scrap the proposed Rent Control Act;

"To encourage the government of Ontario to work with tenants, landlords and all interested parties to develop a new law which will be fair to all; and

"To ensure that in this new legislation the interests of housing affordability and tenant protection are balanced with a recognition of the importance of allowing needed repairs to rental buildings to be financed and completed."

##### FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South):** I couldn't think of a better birthday gift for the Minister of Transportation than 130,000 petitions; it's his 50th birthday today. I have these petitions; anyway, this is part of that batch of 130,000:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession; and

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the

current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens; and

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are incorrectly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding; and

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under this act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million in the greater Toronto area be revoked immediately."

Those are predominantly in the communities of Perth, Napanee and Smith Falls, and it has my signature of support.

#### PROPOSED HIGHWAY

**Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre):** I have a petition here from the citizens of west Whitby to the Legislature of Ontario:

"Whereas we, the Committee of Concerned Citizens of West Whitby, representing Queen's Chase, Otter Creek and Macedonian Village, wish to protest the technically preferred route identified as DMZ by the Ministry of Transportation in the report entitled Summary Information on Evaluation and Analysis of Technically Preferred Route."

This technically preferred route is preferred by whom I do not know and technically in terms of what I don't know, because it is environmentally disastrous and socially abhorrent, affecting some 8,000 people who I have already cited where they are. I affix my name to that petition.

#### REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** I have a petition to present. It states as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Ontario government has indicated it has plans to open gambling establishments in Niagara and other locations in Ontario;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to abandon such plans for legalized gambling."

I am in agreement with the sentiments expressed in this petition and have affixed my signature as a sign of my support.

#### REAL ESTATE GAINS

**Ms Anne Swarbrick (Scarborough West):** I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 30 Scarborough West constituents, which reads as follows:

"Whereas the government of Ontario has promised to introduce a new tax on real estate gains; and

"Whereas there is simply no evidence to suggest that real estate gains taxes either contribute to lower land and housing prices or raise significant revenue for the government; and

"Whereas in some cases a new tax on real estate gains may even raise prices by reducing supply; and

"Whereas the tax as proposed in the NDP's Agenda for People will adversely affect the entire real estate market in our community; and

"Whereas real estate gains are already subject to heavy taxation from federal and provincial governments;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to urge the Honourable Floyd Laughren, Treasurer of Ontario, not to proceed with an additional tax on real estate gains."

**Mr Charles Beer (York North):** I have a petition signed by some 30 persons opposing the introduction of a new tax on real estate gains, which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government of Ontario has promised to introduce a new tax on real estate gains; and

"Whereas there is simply no evidence to suggest that real estate gains taxes either contribute to lower land and housing prices or raise significant revenue for the government; and

"Whereas in some cases a new tax on real estate gains may even raise prices by reducing supply; and

"Whereas the tax as proposed in the NDP's Agenda for People will adversely affect the entire real estate market in our community; and

"Whereas real estate gains are already subject to heavy taxation from federal and provincial governments;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to urge the Honourable Floyd Laughren, Treasurer of Ontario, not to proceed with an additional tax on real estate gains."

I have affixed my signature to this petition.

#### RENT REGULATION

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** This is a petition to the Legislature of Ontario:

"Whereas the proposed Rent Control Act, Bill 121, will prevent apartment owners from carrying out needed repairs to apartment buildings; and

"Whereas this law, if enacted, will be detrimental to the interests of tenants and landlords across the province; and

"Whereas the rent-freeze legislation, Bill 4, has already put thousands of workers on the unemployment rolls and Bill 121 threatens the permanent loss of 25,000 jobs,

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"To scrap the proposed Rent Control Act; to encourage the government of Ontario to work with tenants, landlords and all interested parties to develop a new law which would be fair to all, and to ensure that in this new legislation the interests of housing affordability and tenant protection are balanced with a recognition of the importance of allowing needed repairs to rental buildings to be financed and completed."

#### REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln):** I have a petition here, signed by 22 constituents, to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Ontario government has indicated its plans to open gambling establishments in Niagara and other locations in Ontario;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To abandon such plans for legalized gambling."

I affix my signature to the petition.

1610

#### CULTURAL FUNDING

**Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton):** I have a petition signed by 20 employees of the Art Gallery of Ontario who live in my riding:

"To the Legislative Assembly:

"We, the undersigned employees of the Art Gallery of Ontario, wish to express our grave concern over the proposed cutbacks to the AGO budget. If executed, these cutbacks would result not only in the scaling down of activities within the gallery, but in severing the services which the AGO provides throughout the province to the people of Ontario. For the past 25 years, the AGO has had a mandate as a cultural resource for the entire province. The proposed cutbacks do not merely undermine, but eliminate this mandate and negate the achievements of a quarter-century of commitment to the cultural growth of this province. As constituents of Eglinton, we urge Ms Poole to represent our concerns to the government of Ontario and to reiterate and renew our collective responsibility to the cultural heritage of this province and this country."

I have signed the petition.

#### REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** I have a petition today, and it reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a quick-fix solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

I have affixed my name to this petition.

#### MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

**Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex):** I have a petition signed by 14 citizens of Lobo township in the county of Middlesex, who petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to reject the report of the greater London arbitrator, Mr John Brant. Many of us in Middlesex have grave concerns about the size of the annexation recommendations within the report and would like to emphasize the importance of protecting agricultural land in the area of Middlesex county. This is an issue of utmost importance to all of us. I have signed my name to this petition.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition signed by members of Asco Construction Ltd, and it reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those investments."

I have signed my name to that.

I have a series of further petitions on the same subject matter, and I would just indicate—one at a time? Thank you.

#### REAL ESTATE GAINS

**Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West):** I have a petition signed by some of my constituents. It's opposing the introduction of any new tax on real estate gains. The whereases and the resolutions are the same as those of the member for Scarborough West. I will not read the entire petition, as it has been read twice.

#### MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

**Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand):** I have a petition signed by 23 residents of Middlesex county petitioning the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I've affixed my signature as required.

**Mr Bernard Grandmaître (Ottawa East):** I have a similar petition objecting to the greater London area annexation program, addressed to the Legislature:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I have affixed my signature.

**Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex):** I have a petition here signed by 18 constituents from the county of Middlesex, who urge the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to reject the Brant report and ask this Legislature to please protect the agricultural land in the county of Middlesex by reconsidering the proposed area Mr Brant has recommended for annexation. I've signed my name to this petition.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition signed by members of Scepter Mfg Co Ltd.

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

I have affixed my signature.

#### REAL ESTATE GAINS

**Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York):** I have a petition similar to the one from Durham West.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to urge the Honourable Floyd Laughren, Treasurer of Ontario, not to proceed with an additional tax on real estate gains."

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition signed by individuals from Canada Culvert and Metal Products Ltd, which petitions the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

#### MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

**Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex):** Mr Speaker, with your indulgence I have a third petition here signed by 35 residents of the township of Lobo in the county of Middlesex, who petition the Ontario Legislature to reject the Brant report and respectfully ask the Legislature of Ontario to consider the concerns of area farmers and the protection of farm land in Middlesex. I've signed my name to this petition.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### CINQUEMANI HOLDINGS LIMITED ACT, 1992

Mrs Caplan moved first reading of Bill Pr33, An Act to revive Cinquemani Holdings Limited.

Motion agreed to.

##### ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF PROPERTY STANDARDS OFFICERS ACT, 1992

Mr Morrow moved, on behalf of Mr Christopherson, first reading of Bill Pr22, An Act respecting the Ontario Association of Property Standards Officers.

Motion agreed to.

##### CITY OF OTTAWA ACT, 1992

Mr Grandmaître moved first reading of Bill Pr27, An Act respecting the City of Ottawa.

Motion agreed to.

##### CITY OF OTTAWA ACT, 1992

Mr Chiarelli moved first reading of Bill Pr18, An Act respecting the City of Ottawa.

Motion agreed to.

1620

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

##### RETAIL SALES TAX AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

##### LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LA TAXE DE VENTE AU DÉTAIL

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for third reading of Bill 130, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la taxe de vente au détail.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Are there any members who wish to participate in this debate? If not, the parliamentary assistant.

**Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings):** After extensive debate and in the absence of the minister, the Honourable Shelley Wark-Martyn, I move third reading of Bill 130, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act.

1639

The House divided on Mr Johnson's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

#### Ayes-60

Akande, Bisson, Boyd, Buchanan, Carter, Charlton, Churley, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Duignan, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Jamison, Johnson, Lankin, Laughren, Lessard, Mackenzie, MacKinnon, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Marchese, Martin, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury);

O'Connor, Perruzza, Philip (Etobicoke-Rexdale), Pilkey, Pouliot, Rae, Rizzo, Silipo, Sutherland, Swarbrick, Ward (Brantford), Waters, Wessinger, White, Wildman, Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winner, Wiseman, Wood, Ziembra.

#### Nays-34

Arnott, Beer, Bradley, Caplan, Carr, Chiarelli, Conway, Cousens, Cunningham, Daigeler, Eddy, Eves, Fawcett, Grandmaître, Harnick, Harris, Jackson, Jordan, Mahoney, Marland, McClelland, McGuinty, McLean, Miclash, Offer, O'Neil (Quinte), O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poole, Sterling, Stockwell, Sullivan, Turnbull, Witmer.

House in committee of the whole.

##### RENT CONTROL ACT, 1992

##### LOI DE 1992 SUR LE CONTRÔLE DES LOYERS

Consideration of Bill 121, An Act to revise the Law related to Residential Rent Regulation / Loi révisant les lois relatives à la réglementation des loyers d'habitation.

**Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing):** It gives me great pleasure actually to bring to the floor of this committee the last round of our discussion of amendments to Bill 121, the act to control rents in Ontario. I'd just like

to say very briefly that we are dealing with a piece of legislation that I think is going to improve the situation for tenants in Ontario very markedly.

We have seen in the past and under existing legislation very large rent increases. I am daily signing letters to people who are bearing the brunt of those increases under existing legislation. Even though we brought in Bill 4 at the beginning of our term of office, there are still many people who are paying increases that were based on the application of the existing Bill 51 at a point before our government was sworn in.

Under the new legislation the maximum rent increase will be determined by a guideline and there will be no rent increase that will go beyond 3% above that rent control guideline. There is no provision in the new legislation for tenants to have to pay for luxury renovations or the costs of landlords' financing, which has been a very heavy burden for tenants in the past. The law will say landlords can apply to increase the rent above guideline, but only for necessary repairs, and where repairs are undertaken and an above-guideline increase is granted to a landlord, once the costs of those renovations are paid for those costs will be removed from the base rent so they won't be calculated year after year on an increased basis.

For the first time, tenants will also be able to make an application to reduce rents for inadequate maintenance in a very direct fashion under this legislation. If there are outstanding property standards orders against the rental building, the landlord will not be able to increase rents even by the guideline amount.

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On the other hand, I think what we are looking at is a piece of legislation that does permit landlords a reasonable rate of return. It allows them increases based on a guideline that reflects both the cost of inflation and an additional 2% element each year. Further, they can make application for above-guideline increases that can be carried forward for a total of three years. This means landlords will have scope within the legislation to operate their buildings in a satisfactory manner and provide for those costs, which will come from time to time in any rental building, that may be higher than guideline. All in all, we think it's a balanced package.

I'd like to indicate, as we begin discussion in committee of the whole House, that we will be proposing amendments. I know the other parties will too. Our amendments will touch on sections 1, 7, 13, 20, 15—sorry, I had that out of order—21, 22, 114, 115—here again I'm retracing—28, 39, 40, 49, 61, 62, 64 and 104.

**The Chair (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Can I read that back, Minister?

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** Yes, please.

**The Chair:** Sections 1, 7, 13, 20, 15, 21, 22, 114, 115, 28, 39, 40, 49, 61, 62, 64 and 104. Is that correct?

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** I hope so.

**The Chair:** Are there any other amendments?

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** I'm sorry to come back. Section 135, I believe, was missed in your recall.

**The Chair:** So you're adding section 135.

**Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton):** I too am quite pleased to see the end of this debate. Of the minister, the critic for the third party and myself, I think I'm the only survivor from when this legislation was first introduced in June 1991.

I have a number of amendments I have tabled with you on behalf of the Liberal caucus. I would just like to read out for you which sections are involved. The first amendment deals with the whole bill. Then we go to subsection 1(1)—the Liberal caucus has two amendments to that subsection—clause 3(1)(e), subsection 12(1), section 18.1, subsection 20(3), subsection 20(4), subsection 20(4.1), section 22.1, subsection 24(4), section 25, section 26, section 89.1 through section 89.14—I'm sorry, I gave the old numbering for that particular one; that would be section 95.1 through section 95.14, if you could strike out sections 89.1 through section 89.14, which was the old numbering—clause 119(a), clause 120(3)(a), section 125.1 and section 129.1 through section 129.14.

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** I have three amendments to present on behalf of our caucus. They are amendments to section 21, section 24—do you want the breakdown? It's subsection 21(6.1), subsection 24(4) and clause 29(2)(c.1). Those are the three amendments on behalf of the Progressive Conservative caucus.

**Ms Poole:** I am sorry. There was an oversight. There is one I did not read out. It is an amendment to sections 34 through 41.

Section 1:

**The Chair:** I will start with section 1.

**Ms Poole:** I have two amendments to subsection 1(1).

**The Chair:** Ms Poole moves that subsection 1(1) of the bill, as amended by the general government committee, be amended by adding the following definition:

“‘Board’ means the Rent Review Appeals Board.”

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** Mr Chair, I wonder if you would inquire of the critic for the official opposition whether she doesn't intend to move the amendment concerning the whole bill and the title first. Is that her intent?

**Ms Poole:** I did have a discussion with the officers of the table before we began about whether it was appropriate to move my amendment for the whole bill at the beginning or the end of the bill. I'm not quite sure whether in fact we resolved it. I'm happy to do whichever one, at the discretion of the Chair, you deem advisable.

1700

**The Chair:** Could you give me one minute?

On your motion, Ms Poole, if we amend the definition of the section, of course the whole bill would be amended; as long as you are aware of that. If you want debate it, I would ask you to move the amendment to the bill first.

**Ms Poole:** Fine, Mr Chair. I'd be happy to do that.

**The Chair:** The member for Mississauga South, do you have a point of order?

**Mrs Marland:** Mr Chair, I was in error in giving you only three amendments. May I add the fourth amendment, which I should have mentioned in the summary before you

started? We are now going to start speaking to the amendments, correct?

**The Chair:** Sure. Go ahead.

**Mrs Marland:** The other amendment I have is to subsection 135(1.1). That's the amendment that resulted in the government approving a suggestion that our caucus had, and I did not include that with my original three.

**The Chair:** Okay.

Ms Poole moves that the bill, as amended by the general government committee, be amended by striking out "rent control" wherever it appears and substituting "rent review."

Do you have any comments, the member for Eglinton?

**Ms Poole:** Yes, Mr Chairman, indeed I do. The reason I have moved this amendment to the wording of the bill to strike out "rent control" and substitute for it the words "rent review" is that it has become very clear to us that this is not a bill of rent control. Any time you have a system where a landlord has the ability to go to a government body for increases above the guideline amount and, not only that, can go in several different categories, and when a government body is responsible for reviewing and approving these particular increases, then this is what you call a system of rent review.

I think we all remember the promise of rent control this government made during the last election; in fact, I think we all have the words memorized by now. It was to be one rent increase per year, geared to inflation and nothing else, and no special bonuses to landlords for capital or financing. That was the definition of this NDP government for rent control back in September 1990. That's what the tenants expected when they voted for this government.

So when tenants have seen what is an extremely convoluted, extremely complicated, extremely bureaucratic bill, which in this particular year, for instance, would allow an increase of up to 9% under the rules of this legislation, then I don't think they feel this government has delivered what it promised, which was real rent control. Instead, what we have is a system of rent review which, for all the government's protestations back when it was in opposition, is far more complicated and more bureaucratic than what was offered under the previous Bill 51.

When you look at what this bill has to offer—it has now, I believe, up to 140 sections, surpassing the previous rent legislation, Bill 51, by some nine sections—and when you see that this government, when in opposition, complained about how lengthy, unwieldy and complicated Bill 51 was in its form, this legislation has been quite a disappointment to the people of this province.

I believe in calling things as they are, and to me, this is not rent control. It is certainly not the rent control this government promised. I believe it would be more accurately portrayed if we called this rent review.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** We will not support this amendment. In our view, this is a rent control bill and it will provide rent control. What it provides is a basis of determination of rents that includes an inflation component, based on actual inflationary increases landlords are experiencing in the operation of rental buildings, averaged over a three-year period. There's a portion of the guideline which is

made up of that inflationary element at 55% of the total inflationary costs experienced by landlords. The guideline then also includes another 2%, and that's the guideline. It's known. It's a control.

Above that, a landlord must apply and the maximum a landlord may receive in an application in any given year is 3% above guideline. That is a control. We feel the bill is aptly named and we will continue calling it the rent control bill.

**Ms Poole:** I don't want to prolong this debate because we have many amendments to go through this week, but I would like to say to the minister that the problem is that the government can now call this rent control, but it has changed its definition of rent control this year from two years ago. That's where the difficulty lies, in that when tenants and landlords look at this legislation, it bears no resemblance to what was promised by this government as rent control back in 1990.

I have one piece of advice for the minister and for this government. In future, when you are making promises, whether they be related to housing legislation or any other legislation, there are two things I think are necessary: One, when you make the promise, ensure it is workable, and second, when you make the promise, make sure it is balanced to begin with. That is where this government has come into a great deal of difficulty, in that once it actually tried to take a look and implement its election promise, it found out it couldn't do that. Our aging housing stock would be in jeopardy if it indeed kept that promise. This is one of those cases when it's not whether the government actually implemented the promise, the question is whether this government should have made the promise to begin with. I think that's a good spot to leave this particular debate.

**Mrs Marland:** I wish to place some comments on the record, and they cover the amendment that is on the floor at this point in time as well.

Before turning to my concerns regarding the inadequate or absent definitions of several key terms in section 1 of Bill 121, I would like to talk briefly about this bill as it has been reported back from the standing committee on general government and the process by which the bill was debated and amended in that committee.

First, the House should note that this bill has been subject to over 250 amendments, almost all of which came from the government. Only one of the excellent and commonsense suggestions from our party was passed. That happened only because the NDP members had lost interest in the bill and there weren't enough members present in the committee to win the vote. Nor did they know enough about the proceedings and the rules of order that govern committee hearings: They could in fact have called for a 20-minute recess to call their members to the vote, but they were not familiar enough with the proceedings to know that was an option they had, and of course they lost the vote. Tremendous irony; this is the only reason we're here in the committee of the whole today, because the government wanted to reverse one amendment we won with the opposition party because its government members were not present in sufficient numbers to vote it down.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** Who moved that?

1710

**Mrs Marland:** We did. Now the government is threatening to retract our amendment, the new section 14.1, in the committee of the whole. Our amendment would allow a property owner to base an application for an above-the-guideline rent increase on an increase in financing costs since these are costs over which property owners have no control. Obviously if the property owner is coming up to renew his mortgage, we're not in this example talking about flipping and refinancing so that a property owner can make other investments. We're talking about the no-option situation where the financing arrangements for that property owner have now come due and the property owner has to seek new financing, and in the interim there may have been a tremendous increase in interest rates, which obviously property owners do not control. The government did not see fit to be even fair in considering that particular amendment.

Returning to the huge number of amendments, it has been virtually impossible to keep track of them all. Many a time in the standing committee on general government we could not proceed because of confusion over section numbers resulting from the vast number of amendments. We had second- and third-generation amendments which amended amendments. Confusion reigned supreme, patience wore thin and tempers certainly flared. The member for Yorkview tried to defend his minister and lighten the mood by telling corrupted versions of fairy tales, Robin Hood and The Three Little Pigs, in which property owners were equated to evil and tenants to goodness.

**The Chair:** Order. I would ask you to speak to the amendment, please.

**Mrs Marland:** I am speaking to the amendment, Mr Chair. The fact is, in speaking to this amendment I am giving some history of what our position is on this amendment and what we have experienced in dealing with this amendment. This particular member kept getting his facts wrong, and at times even the minister had to convince the member for Yorkview to refrain from speaking.

When opposition members of the committee, in justifiable bewilderment, asked questions of the minister or complained about the many problems with the bill, the minister actually insulted us and insinuated that we were stupid. Her arrogance, sarcasm and rudeness were among the worst examples I have seen of behaviour ill becoming a minister of the crown. Even when opposition members of the committee referred to Instant Hansard to prove our points—

**The Chair:** Order. I would ask you to please speak to the amendment.

**Mrs Marland:** I am speaking to the amendment.

**The Chair:** The amendment is very clear. Would you like me to read it to you again?

**Mrs Marland:** If you wish to.

In speaking to the amendment, Mr Chair, I would point out that we had a great deal of difficulty dealing with this bill in committee, and I'm simply saying that no matter how many times we referred to Hansard to prove our points about what this minister had been saying, the minister remained as obdurate as ever. What the Minister of

Housing has to be supercilious about is beyond me and my party. Obviously Bill 121, as originally presented to this House last June and even in October after public hearings and the resulting amendments, was so badly drafted that it should have been withdrawn.

In the standing committee on general government I asked the minister on at least two occasions to withdraw the bill, but obviously she refused, and here we are today with this amendment to the bill on the floor at the moment. We're here today with a bill vastly different from the one with which we started last June.

**The Chair:** Order. Let me read the motion: that the bill, as amended by the general government committee, be amended by striking out "rent control" wherever it appears and substituting "rent review."

That is the motion. We're not debating second reading. We're debating this amendment. I would ask you please to debate the amendment.

**Mrs Marland:** I recognize we're not debating second reading. I'm simply saying why I have the comments I have to make on this amendment you've just read.

Tenants and property owners are already confused by the rent control changes which resulted from Bill 4 and they are now wondering why this amendment of this section of Bill 121 will change the system. They have called their local MPPs or the regional rent review offices with their inquiries. Imagine getting one answer between June and October of last year and another from October to the present and yet another after the passage of this bill.

**The Chair:** Order. I thought I was so clear, and I would ask you please to debate the amendment. The member for Mississauga South, please debate the amendment.

**Mrs Marland:** Mr Chair, I don't know where it says in debating an amendment I can't refer to what surrounds the content of that amendment. You're talking about the amendment and the definition between "rent control" and "rent review," and I am talking about the impact and what leads to the need for that amendment by the official opposition. That's simply all I am doing.

**The Chair:** I just want to advise you once more that you must debate the amendment. You have the floor.

**Mrs Marland:** Mr Chair, are you ruling that you are going to limit the comments I am making in reference to the amendment?

**The Chair:** What I'm telling you is that you must debate the amendment. That's all I'm telling you.

**Mrs Marland:** This is an unusual procedure at the beginning of the committee of the whole, Mr Chair.

**The Chair:** The sections are very clear. All I'm asking is that you debate the amendment.

**Mrs Marland:** Mr Chair, it's interesting that you're saying the sections are very clear. The problem with this whole bill is that none of the bill is clear. The concerns I'm trying to put on the record are the concerns our party has with this bill, and this amendment will not make it any easier for the public to interpret this bill. I am simply trying to place on the record the concerns the public has

with this amendment and with this bill, and I think I'm entitled to do that.

Interjection.

**Mrs Marland:** And I don't think interjections are in order.

**The Chair:** Can I make it very clear that the debate should be on the amendment, and if you wish to make any other comments later on, you could do so at third reading.

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** On a point of order, Mr Chairman: When you listen to the issue of whether we're talking rent review or rent control, throughout all of these proceedings in the committee, the whole procedure, the adding of the amendments, the changing of the whole rules of the game, the bill we had at the beginning of the whole proceedings and what we have now are two completely different things. Whether we're talking rent review or rent control, I would submit that this member's comments are most relevant. The whole proceeding has become so unbelievably complicated, my guess is that the only people in this chamber who know what's going on are the two critics and the minister. It has become so unbelievably complicated. The amendment and what the member is now speaking about has drawn to this committee's attention the complexity of this bill and how it has been made more and more difficult as time has progressed. So I would ask, sir, that you would consider her comments as most relevant in describing whether we're talking rent review or rent control. I would submit that her comments are most relevant.

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**The Chair:** May I ask you once more, the member for Mississauga South, to limit yourself to the motion and to debate the motion presented by the member for Eglinton?

**Mrs Marland:** Mr Chairman, the amendment to which you refer is addressing the whole bill, is it not?

**The Chair:** It's changing the words "rent control" to "rent review."

**Mrs Marland:** Could you tell me if you have the same copy I have, because it says—

**The Chair:** Could you take your seat for a minute, please. Let me read—

**Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview):** How can you keep questioning him like this? You're doing exactly what you were doing in committee. Settle down.

**The Chair:** Order, please, the member for Yorkview. Let me read the amendment once more:

Ms Poole moves that the bill, as amended by the general government committee, be amended by striking out "rent control" wherever it appears and substituting "rent review."

That is the motion.

**Mrs Marland:** Mr Chair, you are correct, but you have not addressed the fact that this amendment is to the whole bill. It is not addressing a section of the bill; it is an amendment to the whole bill. My comments are simply addressing the whole bill and this amendment as it pertains to the whole bill. You're asking me to speak to the amendment, which I am doing, and I am addressing the whole bill in my comments in speaking to that amendment.

**The Chair:** Let me explain to you again. This motion is very specific. It deals with the substitution of the words "rent control" to "rent review." That's all it says. You either speak in favour of it or you speak against it. I would ask you to debate on that motion.

**Mrs Marland:** Mr Chairman, in speaking to this amendment about striking out "rent control" wherever it appears and substituting "rent review," I am entitled to speak to rent control and rent review and the interpretation of either of those terms throughout the whole bill. That's simply all I am doing. I would respectfully suggest that I am saying to you that there is a history to this bill which the public of Ontario is entitled to know. They are entitled to understand why I have the concerns I have with the amendment referring to rent control and rent review, and I'm entitled to put on the record the concerns that surround not only the use of those two terms, but the whole bill.

**Ms Poole:** On a point of order, Mr Chairman: With respect to the critic for the third party, to date I have not heard one piece of information that was related to whether "rent control" should be substituted in this bill by the words "rent review." I think the member has been debating the concept of the whole bill, but we have very limited time for committee of the whole House, we have numerous amendments by at least two of the three parties and a few by the third party, and we cannot possibly get through this if we keep digressing on what the third party critic perceives to be the character of the minister or other things such as that.

**The Chair:** To the member for Mississauga South, may I ask you once more to debate the amendment brought in by Ms Poole—let me explain—and if you have any other information you wish to convey to the public, I would ask you to do so at third reading. At the moment we are debating the amendment, and I'll read the amendment again:

Ms Poole moves that the bill, as amended by the general government committee, be amended by striking out "rent control" wherever it appears and substituting "rent review."

That is the amendment. Either you speak in favour of it or against it. This is what the Chair is asking you to do.

**Mrs Marland:** Mr Chairman, I'm quite happy to abide by your direction. I want to say—

**Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South):** Those are the rules, the ones you accuse us of not knowing.

**Mrs Marland:** I do take exception to the fact that included in the rules of this House is a prohibition on interjections which, for some reason, at this time you're choosing to ignore.

**Mr Mammoliti:** Don't speak about the rules, when you're not listening to the Chair.

**Mrs Marland:** There have been interjections from a number of members in this House. To tell you the truth, I think the whole process is an absolute, total, abject waste of time, because we're standing here debating this amendment presented by the official opposition, which now is aligning itself with—I wouldn't say with the Chair, but certainly

with the government. So now we've got the critic for the official opposition suggesting what I should do in my role as the critic for our caucus.

I won't be part of this game. I think the whole thing is a sham and I have no more comments to make on this amendment.

**The Chair:** Do you have any further comments on the amendment, the member for Mississauga South?

**Mrs Marland:** The process is an absolute waste of time and I don't want to be part of it. I do not have any more comments to make to this amendment.

**The Chair:** Are there any further comments or questions to Miss Poole's amendment? Is it the pleasure of the committee that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

**The Chair:** Any further amendments to section 1? Ms Poole.

**Ms Poole:** Yes, Mr Speaker. After that hard-fought battle, I'm going to try again. This amendment actually goes to the heart of the bill.

**The Chair:** Ms Poole moves that subsection 1(1) of the bill, as amended by the standing committee on general government, be amended by adding the following definition:

"'Board' means the Rent Review Appeals Board."

**Ms Poole:** As I mentioned before, I believe the reinstatement of an appeals board goes to the heart and soul of what we want to see in this bill. I think most people would consider it a democratic right to have the right of appeal and yet under this legislation there is only a very narrow right of appeal, only in certain circumstances, and then it has to be appealed through the Divisional Court.

This is one of the few issues on which landlords and tenants actually concur. In fact, it's been a unanimous opinion by everybody, it seems, except the government and the ministry, that there should be an appeal board.

Dr Ratna Ray sent a letter to the various people on the committee. She sent a document that actually went to all members of the Legislative Assembly back in December. I would like to use some of Dr Ray's comments on why an appeal board is necessary and why it should be an integral part of this legislation.

1730

Dr Ray made a number of comments, and I'd like to touch on them. The first item Dr Ray, who was at the time chair of the Rent Review Hearings Board, has stated is that the possibility of a hearing in the first instance is a very positive thing, and it certainly appears to answer the shortfalls in the current system where it is administrative review. Dr Ray says this is a very good thing because direct access to the decision-maker allows for the clarification of issues at the time submissions are made. Also, many parties are able to express themselves much better orally than they are in written form. Dr Ray also mentions that a hearing can be used as public education and for the sharing of information.

However, there are a number of problems with only relying on the hearing process and without having an appeal. While it would solve some of the problems, on the other hand, serious new problems would arise when an appeal from an initial-level application is only available to the Divisional Court, and then only under exceptional circumstances.

The first item they talk about when they're talking about the appeal and the desire to have an appeal board is the doctrine of separation of powers and the fact that we need an independent, arm's-length appeals board that would operate independently of perceived or real political influence and should also be free not only of influence from the ministerial side but also from the bureaucratic side. I'd like to quote one particular section from their report:

"The most serious shortfall of the proposed system is the public perception that there is no independent decision-making body which is free from having its discretion fettered in reaching its determinations. When the decision-makers are subject to the control and discretion of the minister, there is no public perception of separation of the judicial process from the political process."

I think that is very true.

Another point Dr Ray brought up was the prohibitive costs if you do not have an appeal board and if tenants and landlords only have as a resort to go to Divisional Court. We talked in the general government committee about the costs of taking just a simple case to court, and it became very obvious that for a complex case it is simply beyond the reach of most tenants and most landlords.

One of the statistics Dr Ray gave us in the report was that under the current system landlord appeals to the Divisional Court have outnumbered tenant appeals in a ratio of over five to one, and I think this very clearly points out the problem about accessibility and availability of the avenue of appeal by using the courts. We're talking about a situation where it's five to one where you do have an appeal board, and these are people who take it beyond that. How many more people would be denied the right of appeal? Even if they fit these very extraordinary circumstances, how many could actually do it if the costs are so prohibitive?

One of the problems they also pointed out is that there needs to be a reconsideration and an opportunity for reconsideration by decision-makers. But you cannot have this reconsideration of decision-makers by the same people. Unfortunately in Bill 121 that's what happens. Instead of having an independent, arm's-length appeal board, there is a mechanism where the decision-maker can appeal his or her own decision, and I'm not sure this is going to engender a lot of trust in the system.

The next point Dr Ray made was that in Bill 121 there is no mechanism to deal with complex errors of fact. They've pointed out that it is quite unclear in the law how this proposed system would deal with complex errors of fact in law. Clearly errors such as the listing of services and facilities or the number of bedrooms could be dealt with quite readily. However, with issues of mixed fact in law or complex errors of fact, such as evidentiary issues of standards of maintenance or the proportion of a complex that is found to be commercial, then these could not be

easily determined. Now there is no appeal mechanism. There's none at all, because they can't even appeal those ones to the Divisional Court since they're not errors of law.

The other area where Dr Ray has talked about the need for an independent appeal mechanism is the fact that appeal tribunals are far more cost-effective and expeditious than courtroom proceedings. I think this is a matter not only of common sense but also of fact. This is certainly proven if you compare the cost of an appeals-level tribunal with the courts. It is significantly less costly in both time and dollars. One might say: "Yes, but the Ministry of Housing doesn't pay for the courts. That's the Attorney General." Yes, this is true. It might help the Ministry of Housing's budget, but quite frankly this does put an onerous burden on another ministry in this government.

It's the taxpayers who end up paying the cost. There aren't two pockets for the taxpayers. Whether it's this one or that one, whether it's Housing or Attorney General, it's the same taxpayer who pays for them. What we want is the most expeditious, fairest and most timely way of dealing with this.

The hearings board also felt that a specialized tribunal can better serve the public than the courts, because there's an educational aspect involved, communication is much better, they're far more informal than the courts and they are more accessible. Certainly from the vantage points of both cost and intimidation, I think the appeals process through tribunals would be far better for the public than the courts. That wasn't something Dr Ratna Ray said, but it's certainly something I feel is true.

If it is very concerned with costs, there are certain things the government can do. They could reinstate an appeals board, but instead of having three members they could have one. It isn't the ideal situation, but certainly if the minister is most concerned about cost, then that is one way out. The government has seen fit in this legislation to disband both the standards board and the appeals board, yet according to the statistics given to us in committee by Mr Glass, who is a top official, this system is going to cost about the same as the old system. They hope that one day in the future it is going to cost less.

I've been around government long enough to know that things never seem to cost less. If the estimates are that initially they are going to cost as much as the old system and yet you've taken two of the most valuable features of the old system out, I wonder what this is all about.

I think to appeal is a fundamental right. I guess I feel it's quite ironic that in a situation where we have tenants and landlords finally agreeing on something, the ministry does not agree.

They have alleviated some of my concern by saying that in most cases tenants have an automatic right of appeal. That is very good, but it is still a problematic feature in that there is no independent arm's-length right to appeal decisions made in the rent review system.

Those are my comments at this time unless there is a response after the minister and the third-party critic have responded.

1740

**Mr Tilson:** This subject has been dealt with at quite some length in the committee process. We talked about the fact that now, under Bill 51, there is a process which allows an appeal process. We now have none unless it's a matter of law.

I note that the Minister of Transportation is in the House. Of course, he has made comments in the past on other issues that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. That's exactly what I suspect the critic for the Liberal Party is speaking of.

We now have a process being proposed by this bill of rent officers who will be appointed under section 126. After that, if there are typographical errors or other errors or mistakes made by those rent officers on matters of fact, there are some ways of dealing with that. Sections 94 and 95 talk about clerical errors and about how the rent officer may amend them. Section 95 also talks about the power to reconsider within one year. The chief rent officer, if he or she believes a serious error has been made, may reconsider the matter and affirm, rescind, amend or replace the order.

The amendment that is before the committee now is talking about the type of process that Bill 51 has. It's a lead-up to a rent review appeals board. Now, if an error is made in all innocence, whether it be an error made on the landlord's side or on the tenant's side, there is no independent appeals process unless the error is one of law or unless the appeal is one of law, in which case under section 96, any person affected can go off to the Divisional Court. But it's quite clear it's only on a matter of law. I suspect that is what the critic for the Liberal Party is heading to. This is one of many sections she will require if this committee were to recommend to the House that we allow the rent review appeals board which exists under Bill 51 to continue, and that is not present.

The member for Mississauga South spent a great deal of time during committee on her concern with respect to the training of these rent officers. She expressed a concern that these individuals would not be properly trained to understand many of the complexities of the act or the complexities of the regulations, which we have yet to see. We don't even know what a lot of these words mean. We don't even know what a lot of the words are, because the regulations haven't been put forward. What does "inadequate" mean? What do all of these things mean? Are these people properly trained to understand the complexities of those words? If they misinterpret something, where will a person grieved go? Where will a tenant go? Where will a landlord go?

There's no rent review appeals board because this legislation doesn't allow for it. In fact, it does away with the whole process that was allowed by Bill 51. Bill 51 allowed for an appeals process and it was favourably viewed by both landlords and tenants. Clearly, what is being proposed by the Liberal critic is a repetition of the process, a duplication of the process of Bill 51.

All other pieces of legislation that I know of, particularly, for example, the environmental acts, allow for an appeal process. Why is this legislation so different? Why can we not appeal these non-legal matters? All parties will be affected. The tenants will be affected. There will be decisions. These decisions are human decisions, and we all

make mistakes. There will be no opportunity to rectify those mistakes other than what is being mentioned in sections 94 and 95, which simply use such vague terminology as the power to reconsider or the discretionary ability of the rent officer to amend it. That's all.

So I will say that we do support the Liberal critic and her direction towards allowing an arm's-length appeal process after the rent officer has made his or her decision, and allowing us to appeal everything, not just matters of law but matters of fact.

**Hon Evelyn Gigantes:** Just one note as I begin my comments here. Mr Tilson may not be aware that in fact a complete package of proposed regulations has been circulated to members of the committee which worked on this legislation, so he might like to refer to that.

We have before us an amendment which basically proposes to change the structure of the legislation which we're considering. The existing legislation has a very different structure. I'm talking here of Bill 51, the Liberal rent review legislation which is still operative in Ontario. That is legislation which says, first of all, there shall be an administrative determination, where there's no hearing, and then if people are not satisfied on one side or the other with that administrative decision, there's a possibility of appeal to the appeals board, which Ms Poole is now trying to reintroduce into a quite different structure.

The structure proposed here is one where the natural situation will be that there is a hearing in each and every case. It is the exception in this legislation, where both sides, both the landlord and the tenant or the group of tenants will have to agree before there is simply an administrative decision instead of a hearing the first round. So all the matters she quotes from Dr Ratna Ray's letter as former chair of the Rent Review Hearings Board really do not apply. What we are dealing with here is an appeal.

**Mrs Marland:** On a point of order, Mr Chairman: The minister has said that her ministry had circulated a package that contained the proposed regulations to this bill. I would like to advise the Chair that we have not received such a package.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** Mr Chair, all we know is that we have done our very best to make sure it has been delivered unto her. What she has received, I guess, is her business on this one, if she has not deigned to receive it.

**Mrs Marland:** On a point of order, Mr Chairman: You have just seen a perfect example of the kind of insinuations I had to endure from this minister during the general government committee. For her to say that what I have received is my business—what I have received is indeed the minister's business.

The minister said they had provided to us a package containing all the definitions and the regulations. Mr Chair, as this is part of the minister's statement in this House at this time on this particular amendment, I am telling you that is not the case. I feel you should know that, because I am not in a position to debate the proposed regulations as I have not been given the information by this minister.

Interjection.

**The Chair:** I would ask you to go to your chair, please, if you want to heckle.

**Ms Poole:** On a point of order, Mr Chair: Perhaps I can add some clarification. There was a package sent out; it was sent out a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. I believe it even went through the clerk's office to all members of the committee, but I can verify that I certainly received my package.

Interjections.

**The Chair:** Order. Minister, a debate on the amendment, please.

1750

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** I thank my Liberal colleague for that explanation; it's very helpful.

I was speaking to the question of the difference between Bill 51, the legislation that exists now in Ontario, and Bill 121, which is before us. In Bill 51 there is an administrative review and the possibility of appeal to what is called the Rent Review Hearings Board, which Dr Ratna Ray chaired. But in Bill 121, we are dealing with an application that is dealt with by a hearing immediately. It is an exception to the rule under Bill 121 that there is an administrative decision made first.

Further, as Mr Tilson has already noted, where there is an error suspected, brought to the attention of rent review administrators, the rent officer may make an amendment at any time before the hearing of an appeal. That's under section 94.

**Mr Tilson:** It's discretionary.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** Of course it's discretionary, because the error will be an alleged error. It is not an error until it is found to be an error, as the member well knows.

Under section 95 there is a full year provided from the date of an order of a rent determination. "The chief rent officer," if he or she believes a serious error has been made—and I'll come back to this—"or his or her delegate shall reconsider the matter and may"—because there has to be a finding; we don't assume that an allegation is correct—"affirm, rescind, amend or replace the order." That's not arm's length, that's true. We have not set up a semijudicial process within this legislation. I'll tell you one of the reasons why, Mr Chair. I think it's really a very important improvement in Bill 121.

In the old system, where we're dealing with a first-round decision and then an appeal to the appeal board, we're dealing with stacked-up appeals dealing with the same apartments that go back months after months after months and lap each other. This whole business of going through the rent review appeals board was an enormously time-consuming thing. It was mostly used, contrary to what Ms Poole suggests, by landlords and it mostly produced results that were very close to the first-round administrative decisions.

Given that tenants and landlords have suffered years of this kind of system, I think they are going to find, whatever emotional appeal there is to the notion of an arm's-length appeal—I will be willing to eat my hat on this one if I'm wrong. I think that in practice, both landlords and tenants are going to very much appreciate the fact that you

make an application, the application is heard in a hearing, there is a decision.

If there is an error that can be brought quickly to the attention of the rent officer, that error can be amended under section 94. If, within a year, it becomes clear to the chief rent officer there is a serious error—Dr Ratna Ray referred, as quoted by Ms Poole, to a complex error. This bill doesn't talk about a complex error; this bill talks about a serious error. If, within one year, there's a serious error—it doesn't have to be complex; it can just be serious—then the chief rent officer or delegate shall reconsider the matter and make a determination. Beyond that, if somebody wants to go to court—and it's mostly landlords who've gone to court in the past. They will continue to go to court over matters of law because there are always ways to find a matter of law to contest in court and we can expect there will be court cases. But if in the end, all this does not produce the result that's desired, then somebody will go to court, that's for sure.

What this process is offering is a system that at least provides a fair and a timely method of determining what the applicable rent shall be. I think it's far superior to having this semijudicial and, in my view of things, kind of pseudo-reassuring Rent Review Appeals Board process that took months, that cost lots administratively and that did not, in my experience, as I sign off letters to angry people around this province, produce a whole bunch of happy campers.

**Ms Poole:** I suspect the NDP backbenchers won't be applauding me on this particular one, because I disagree profoundly with the minister. First of all, she said that Dr Ratna Ray's comments do not apply because since this legislation was first tabled the system has changed and now it offers an automatic right to a hearing rather than administrative review. I can tell the minister that when this legislation was first tabled the system was administrative review unless there was an application by the tenants or landlords within 15 days to have a hearing, which virtually guaranteed that in almost every case there was going to be administrative review, because it usually takes 15 days for Canada Post to even deliver it, let alone for the tenants or landlords to get their act together to ask for it.

When this minister and this ministry—actually, I beg your pardon. It wasn't this minister; it was another minister, a previous minister, who quite wisely and quickly got out of the Housing ministry. Smart man, that Mr Cooke. Anyway, when he introduced it, there was administrative review and there was no appeal. So this legislation wasn't envisaged to have this hearing process replace the appeal. That was because you got harassed by myself, and also quite a few tenant advocates who said, "We want the right of an automatic hearing, particularly since you have removed the right of appeal." But they wanted both.

They wanted the automatic hearing and they also wanted the right of appeal, because what your hearing process does, Madam Minister, is that it does not provide an independent tribunal. It does not provide an arm's-length

tribunal. What it does is that it provides a decision by somebody appointed by you, Madam Minister, by your ministry, who obeys the dictates of the ministry and the minister, who takes directions from the ministry and the minister. It's basically an in-house affair. So how are we going to even perceive, let alone reality—let's leave reality out for the moment. How is there even going to be the perception that there's fairness and independence and arm's-length process when it's all done within the same ministry?

I would like to mention to the minister—I believe she might have been there during the committee hearings when I brought this up—that the member for Oriole did a survey of tenants in her riding. She sent out 15,000 applications. She had a very positive response back, and 91.59% of the tenants who responded said that the Liberal caucus should not support rent legislation that does not provide adequate appeal for rent review orders.

Tenants want it. The federation of Metro tenants wants it. Ottawa-Carleton federation wants it. The Tenant Advocacy Group wants it. United Tenants of Ontario wants it. The tenants out there in buildings in my riding and your riding, Madam Minister, and all across the province want it. Landlords want it, whether they are large landlords or small landlords. Fair Rental wants it. The Urban Development Institute wants it. Everybody wants an appeal, and the demands for an appeal system have not—

**The Chair:** Will the member for Eglinton please resume her seat?

**Hon Shirley Coppin (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr Chairman, I move that the committee rise and report.

**The Chair:** Mrs Coppin moves that the committee shall rise and report. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the motion carry?

**Interjections:** Carried.

**The Chair:** Carried.

**Ms Poole:** Mr Chair, on a point of order.

**The Chair:** Normally, I wouldn't listen to a point of order at 6 o'clock, but I will listen to your point of order.

**Ms Poole:** Mr Chair, I was quite surprised that the government whip would interrupt me in the middle of a sentence to ask that the committee rise and report.

**The Chair:** No. I'm sorry, but I did interrupt you. It was not the House leader. It is my prerogative, when it is 6 o'clock, to place the question.

Madam Speaker, the committee of the whole House begs to report progress and asks for leave to sit again.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms Margaret H. Harrington):** The committee of the whole House begs to report progress and asks for leave to sit again.

Shall the report be received and adopted? Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** It being 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until 1:30 of the clock tomorrow afternoon.

The House adjourned at 1801.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Sillipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Phillip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaitre, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	<b>Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	<b>Cooke, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	<b>Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

**COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE**

**STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS**

**Administration of justice/Administration de la justice**

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow  
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli,  
Mike Cooper Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney,  
Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman,  
Paul Wessinger, David Winninger  
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

**Estimates/Budgets des dépenses**

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Margaret Marland  
Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson,  
Robert Frankford, Wayne Lessard, Lawrence O'Connor, Anthony  
Perruzza, David Ramsay, Gregory S. Sorbara  
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

**Finance and economic affairs/  
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No. 25

Nº 25

ISSN 1180-2987

## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

## Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Tuesday 26 May 1992

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

## Journal des débats (Hansard)

Mardi 26 mai 1992

Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers



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Effective with the opening of the Second Session of the 35th Parliament, Hansard issues and pages are numbered according to session, rather than calendar year as before. Committee reports likewise are numbered from the first sitting of each committee in this parliamentary session.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday 26 May 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### OTTAWA-CARLETON SCHOOL BOARDS

**Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West):** Almost everyone except the provincial government knows that five school boards for Ottawa-Carleton is too many. In Ottawa there is tremendous public support for a commission to study consolidation of Ottawa-Carleton's five school boards, including a unanimous resolution of city council.

It was therefore disappointing for Ottawa taxpayers that the new Kirby commission to review Ottawa-Carleton's municipal governments did not include a parallel study to review the structure of our school boards. After all, property taxpayers pay more to school boards than to municipalities. Recent strikes, economic realities and quality of education concerns dictate the need for a fundamental structural review of our five school boards.

In January I wrote to Minister of Education Silipo urging a review of school board structure to parallel the municipal government review. In February both the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation and an Ottawa Citizen editorial urged similar action. Therefore, disappointment greeted press reports several weeks ago that Minister Silipo will not review school board structure and that the new regional government review will not address the dilemma of our five school boards.

In excluding our five school boards from reform, over half the problem is being ignored. On an important Ottawa issue, Ms Gigantes, the member for Ottawa Centre, again remained silent.

### DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** I'd like to bring to the attention of the House the critical need in my riding of Wellington for a group home for developmentally handicapped children. There is no facility of this kind in the county of Wellington at the present time.

Last October I was approached by my constituents Irene and Bernie Dobben of Moorefield in Maryborough township about the lack of residential services for developmentally handicapped children in Wellington county. Their child was born with Cornelia de Lange's syndrome in 1980. For two years now, Mr and Mrs Dobben have been trying to place their child in a residential program that would address the child's special requirements, but without success. Mr and Mrs Dobben were forced to apply to residences outside Wellington county, but were at a distinct disadvantage since spaces are filled first by local children with similar needs.

Mrs Dobben, along with many other concerned parents, formed the Parents Action Group. They presented a report outlining their suggestions to the Wellington County Multi-Year Plan Implementation Committee last Decem-

ber. The report calls for a group home that would accommodate four children plus two parental relief beds. The Ministry of Community and Social Services has not yet extended funding for this very urgently needed program.

Mrs and Mrs Dobben, as well as other parents, are at the end of their rope. Their options are few and their need is great. I hope the minister will ensure that adequate resources are made available to Wellington county so that a residence for developmentally challenged children can be established. I call upon the Minister of Community and Social Services to do this without delay.

### ROBERT DIETZ

**Mr Will Ferguson (Kitchener):** This past Saturday night 200 labour activists joined me, the member for Cambridge, the member for Kitchener-Wilmot and the member for Waterloo North in posthumously recognizing the dedication, talent and unselfish service given by the late Robert Dietz, vice-president of Local 677 of the United Rubber Workers of America, to his friends, co-workers and community. The Waterloo Regional Labour Council officially recognized Bob Dietz by presenting the Hermie Krueger award to his family.

Bob was not a hero, but the time, commitment and volunteer efforts he put forth on behalf of his coworkers were indeed heroic. Bob wasn't famous, but his struggle for justice and fairness within the workplace on behalf of his brothers and sisters touched the lives of many. His tremendous ability to communicate effectively with an uncanny ability to incorporate wit and humour was always recognized. He put the interests of others before himself constantly.

Bob Dietz was indeed the salt of the earth. The inscription on the plaque his family received is just and fitting, as it reads, "Outstanding Contribution to Labour and the Community." His hard work, dedication and enthusiasm will long be remembered by his family, friends and co-workers in Local 677.

1340

### ALTERNATIVE FUELS

**Mr John C. Cleary (Cornwall):** Mr Speaker, you will recall that way back on April 14, I addressed the Legislature on an exciting ethanol fuel pilot project being promoted by the Seaway Valley Farmers Energy Cooperative. I might remind the House the proposal promises to assist our ailing agriculture industry, produce a cleaner-burning fuel and, in due process, create over 5,000 jobs province-wide.

At my insistence, the Minister of Agriculture and Food has acknowledged the incredible merit of this proposal and indicated he would "do everything in my power to make sure we can move this forward" and "I would certainly like to be able to do that by July 1, if possible."

The July 1 deadline is almost upon us, yet I continue to wonder what the Minister of Agriculture and Food is

planning. Moreover, the Seaway Valley Farmers Energy Cooperative remains equally uninformed. Noting this week's unveiling of green ethanol fuel in Chatham, I question why the minister is shying away from the opportunity being offered to all Ontarians. Time is clearly running out for the Seaway Valley farmers. I implore the minister to seize this opportunity now, before it's too late.

#### DAY CARE

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** On May 12, I hosted a public meeting in Mississauga South where parents, early childhood educators and day care operators could express their concerns about the NDP government's day care policies. A panel representing day care providers and users, the government and interest groups gave their views and answered questions.

Almost everyone who attended the meeting was angry at the Bob Rae government's discrimination against those who provide and use private day care. Last year, the government gave a \$2,000 wage enhancement to the staff of non-profit centres only. Unlike private centres, non-profit centres receive capital funding averaging \$18,000 a space and deficit funding. Clearly, non-profit centres should be called "taxpayer-funded centres."

My constituents are furious that the Bob Rae government is robbing parents of choice in child care. The NDP is putting Ontario's 650 private operators, mostly women, out of business. They don't care about the 6,500 workers the private centres employ, again mostly women. They don't care about the 33,000 children who receive quality care in private centres. The Bob Rae government's day care policies are anti-women and anti-children.

The NDP is spending \$75 million for private centres to convert to non-profit status, even though that money would put all 12,000 children on the waiting list into subsidized child care. This government cares more about socialist ideology than the day care needs of Ontario's women and children.

#### J. G. JAZZ BAND

**Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York):** The year 1992 will be a year of great memories for many people. For some, it will be the year of Canada's 125th anniversary, but for J. G. Jazz, a band in my riding, it will be the year it won gold in Halifax. For Jenny Kanis, it will be the year she was recognized as the outstanding instrumental jazz director in Canada at MusicFest.

Jenny Kanis is a teacher of music at Joseph Gould Senior Public School in Uxbridge. Each year she auditions music students from grades 7 and 8, looking for talent and enthusiasm, to make up the J. G. Jazz band. Jenny and 17 members of her band practised two nights a week perfecting its repertoire, from contemporary jazz-rock to the 1930s and 1940s big band era. The band then performed at regional and provincial festivals, where it earned the opportunity to go to the national MusicFest.

This year, the J. G. Jazz band won the silver medal for its performance in southern Ontario at Oshawa at a festival there. The J. G. Jazz band received a gold plaque for excellence in many facets of music in the 13-years-and-under

class at MusicFest in Halifax. Last year, the J. G. Jazz band won silver at MusicFest in Vancouver. All these accomplishments require enthusiasm and dedication, which Jenny and her band have provided.

#### CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** Two weeks ago the Minister of the Environment participated in the release of the Crombie report. The minister praised David Crombie's work, calling it a green vision for the future of the GTA. However, while the NDP releases reports filled with good words, its actions tell a very different story.

The Crombie report spoke to the important role the province's conservation authorities must play in the ecosystem approach that is necessary to protect our streams, rivers, lakes and green lands. The Association of Conservation Authorities praised the direction of the report but has serious concerns about its inability to implement any of the recommendations when it faces a 13% cut in its budget this year alone—

The association notes that instead of expanding the role of conservation authorities, the Ministry of Natural Resources has been systematically cutting its funding. David Crombie himself criticized the actions of the MNR for its preoccupation with funding issues relating to conservation authorities rather than recognizing their important role in watershed and management issues.

The Minister of the Environment has been unable to coordinate the single issue of making sure that as she tries to implement a green plan for the province of Ontario that conservation authorities will have the resources necessary to be participants in that plan. While the Minister of the Environment talks about the importance of green lands and environmentally sustainable communities, the Minister of Natural Resources is deciding that the conservation authorities are unimportant. If the NDP feels that the problems of the GTA can be resolved with kind words and no action, it is sadly mistaken.

#### INTERCHANGE ON CANADIAN STUDIES

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** My statement today is directed to the Premier and to the Minister of Education. It has come to our attention that the 1993 Interchange on Canadian Studies, which was to be hosted by Ontario and organized through the York region board, has been cancelled by your government.

Interchange on Canadian Studies is a national organization which provides opportunities through student conferences and travel exchanges for young Canadians to meet, to hear prominent speakers and to share ideas and experiences on matters of significance to Canada. This has been a valuable national education forum for students across Canada since its inception in 1972.

This program promotes understanding and appreciation for Canada's diverse heritage. I am genuinely surprised that your government has cancelled such a worthwhile program in light of the current constitutional challenges that face Canadians. While the Premier is actively participating in the constitutional conference, we should at this time in our history continue to promote an understanding

of and an appreciation for the regional aspects of Canada among our students.

I urge the Premier to discuss this request with his Minister of Education, to review the application from the York region board and to support this forum and today's Canadian students, who deserve the same opportunities as students of the past 20 years.

#### LITERACY

**Mr Gary Wilson (Kingston and The Islands):** Last weekend my mother-in-law, Mrs Tina Oleinikow, came to visit our family in Kingston. She left Timmins by bus at 7:45 am, expecting to arrive at 11 pm. Through the courtesy and helpfulness of bus drivers, taxi drivers and neighbours, she was at our house by 9 pm. This is significant because in one important respect Mrs Oleinikow needs the help of others. Although she has lived in Timmins for over 40 years, she can neither read nor write English.

I raise this incident in the first place to remind ourselves of the countless acts of kindness we show each other every day; they are the basis of a civilized society. But I also want to talk about a more focused form of help: literacy groups. This help wasn't available to Mrs Oleinikow, who cleaned houses while raising a family.

In most communities today I am pleased to say literacy instruction is available. One example is Kingston Literacy, which held an open house last week. Visitors to one of their two locations learned that it is a community-based, non-profit organization that has been continually providing literacy services to Kingston since 1978. Among its programs are family literacy, computer-assisted learning, literacy in the workplace and clear writing workshops.

Director Carynn Arnold and the 12 full-time and two part-time staff are to be commended for this invaluable service. Recently they won a major award from the Movement for Canadian Literacy for providing leadership in literacy.

My mother-in-law has had a good life in Ontario. Knowing the skills Kingston Literacy teaches would add a dimension to her life no one should be denied.

1350

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

##### YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** I'd like to take up with the government today the issue of youth unemployment. My question is to the minister of finance, the Deputy Premier. Mr Treasurer, you will know that the Department of Labour data which were released a very few days ago indicate that for the summer of 1992 your own government is projecting an unemployment rate of 18% for young people in the age category of 15 to 24; 18% of those young people will, according to the government of Ontario's latest statistics, be unemployed in the summer of 1992.

Since taking office, your government has seen the number of unemployed young people in this province increase by 70%; 82,000 more young people have joined the unemployment rolls since your taking office. This summer we've got projected unemployment rates for young people

at 18%. Since your taking office the youth unemployment rate has been maintained at a very high level.

My question to you is, Mr Minister of Finance, what measures are you prepared to support for the summer of 1992, and not just for students but for those young people out there looking for that important first job?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** The member raises once again in this House a matter that is of concern to all of us. While he kept making references to the increase in youth unemployment since the government changed, I don't think he was making a direct causal relationship in those facts. However, that aside, whether he was trying to make that link or not, the issue is an important one and one of enormous concern to us because when young people are denied the opportunity to work, that settles in and has a long-term effect on those young people, and on the rest of society I might add.

We know in the last two years the private sector has laid off in this province close to 300,000 people. That's an enormous gap to fill and I don't think the member opposite would imply that government could pick up that kind of slack. Those were not all young people either, I hasten to add. Unless the member doesn't want me to, I will leave until the supplementary some of the specific measures we have undertaken.

**Mr Conway:** I accept it's a very difficult time, but I repeat that your latest report indicates that for the summer of 1992 18% of all young people in this province are going to be out of work. That's the worst youth unemployment rate in over a decade and worse than anything in the recession of 1982-83. Admittedly, we have seen over the last 18 months this government struggle through some tough times, but the government has made heroic efforts to accommodate some of its other constituents. I won't enumerate the extent to which the government has gone to accommodate doctors, teachers and public servants—heroic efforts. I want to know what you are prepared to do in a similar fashion for young people desperately looking for a chance to get into this economy.

Yesterday, the Premier enumerated a number of government programs. In the day that has elapsed, I had a look at some of the government programs. I want to focus my supplementary only on a few of the government programs. The Junior Ranger program, which in 1990 offered 864 positions, this year will offer 426 positions. Ontario Place, which in 1991 offered 672 positions, will this year offer only 602 positions. The Ministry of Natural Resources in 1990 provided 1,226 summer Experience positions. This year the summer Experience positions are halved at roughly 602. What is the government going to do about this sad and lamentable record and what is it offering to young people this year?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I think the member opposite would appreciate the fact that priorities change, programs change and because the program is in place, we will not always have that same program in place in perpetuity in this province. Of course, priorities of government will change and some programs will be reduced, others will be expanded and new programs will be introduced.

For example, I can't think of anything more important to the young people of this province than the training program we have offered and we have provided some details on that in the last couple of weeks. For the training program, we are spending \$1.1 billion over three years, and when you combine that with the other strategic expenditures detailed in this budget, that's going to support about 90,000 jobs this year. But it's the training component that I think is so very important, because that is an area where I think we have to continue to put more money.

I can tell the member opposite as well that at over \$900,000 this year, this government has made the largest contribution in history to training the people in this province. That's what we're doing.

**Mr Conway:** My honourable friend is being disingenuous at best, because he will know that the training programs to which he has made reference overwhelmingly concern themselves with those on social assistance and many others who are out of work. I am talking about young people: students looking for a summer job or college and university graduates looking for a first job.

The reality is that when we look at the summer programs that the government of Ontario has developed over the years, one of two situations obtains. In the summer of 1992, a summer where unemployment rates for young people will be at decade-level highs—18%, or almost 200,000 young Ontarians out of work—the reality is that the government offerings are either going to be less than they were in 1990 or 1991, and in some of these programs such as Ontario Place, the Junior Ranger program or MNR's summer Experience program, dramatically less, or at best are going to be flatlined to last year. The reality is that the unemployment curve for young people is not flatlining; it is escalating dramatically.

My question remains: What particular and immediate initiatives are you prepared to take so that young people in Nickel Belt, in Rainy River, in Renfrew and in all other parts of Ontario will have some hope of gainful employment in the summer of 1992?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I believe that in his response to the member yesterday, the Premier indicated that we are continuing to look at this problem, because it is serious. I am not trying to minimize the seriousness of the problem at all. That's one reason the member for St Andrew-St Patrick is looking at this very vexing problem.

But at the risk of repeating—because I wouldn't want the assembly or people who are watching the events here today to be left with the impression that we haven't done anything else either, and this is, for the sake of repetition, from what the Premier said—I would remind the member that the Futures program will employ and train about 24,500 young people in 1992-93; the Environmental Youth Corps will employ about 3,000 young people this year; the youth employment counselling centres will provide counselling and job placement assistance to about 33,000 clients, and the student venture capital and youth venture capital programs will create about 5,000 jobs in new businesses created by young people.

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole):** You have not made youth the priority. Money for the establishment and the unions, no jobs for the young people. That's the result of your priorities.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I know the member for Oriole doesn't want to hear what we're doing. She simply wants to leave in the minds of people that we're not doing. In fact, we are doing a lot and we're going to be doing more.

1400

#### RETAIL STORE HOURS

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The Minister of Municipal Affairs has the responsibility of representing Ontario's municipalities within his government and at the cabinet table. As the minister well knows, municipalities are in a quandary, wondering how to respond to the government's failed leadership on the Sunday shopping issue. Many municipalities, including Windsor, that have proceeded with bylaws under the unworkable tourist exemption have spent countless hours and thousands of dollars fighting before the OMB, and now the OMB is deferring decisions while it awaits government action.

I would ask the minister to tell us what steps he has taken—as Minister of Municipal Affairs, I stress, as he looks to whom he can refer this question—to represent the concerns of municipalities on this issue.

**Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Government House Leader):** Since I don't get very many questions, if the minister doesn't mind, I'll try to answer it, because I have spent a fair amount of time talking to municipalities about this. I can tell you the one thing they have said very clear and very loud to me is: "Don't go back and do it the way the Liberals do it. We don't want to have it at the municipal level." I had a consultation meeting with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario just a couple of weeks ago. They said: "Whatever changes you're contemplating, don't pass off your political problems to the local level. That's what the Liberals did. It was wrong then and it would be wrong now."

**Mrs McLeod:** That seems to me to be a very clear indication of the kind of consultation and listening this government does, because that's the kind of message you might have heard from municipalities in your opposition days. The reality has changed for municipalities, the messages have changed, and this government needs to hear and respond to today's realities.

As the member for Windsor-Riverside and the Minister of Municipal Affairs, in both roles, this minister has a double responsibility to represent the concerns of border communities, and as everyone knows now, Ontario's border municipalities have been particularly hard hit by the Sunday shopping legislation because of the direct impact it has on cross-border shopping.

I would ask the minister very specifically what he is doing today to help border communities pass the kind of shopping bylaws that will not be prone to the impossible Ontario Municipal Board appeal and will create needed jobs for this summer as well as for the long term.

**Hon Mr Cooke:** I can't help but respond a bit to the opening comments by the leader of the official opposition, and I would say that the position of AMO I was referring to is one of just a few weeks ago. That is the official position of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario: It doesn't want the province to pass off the responsibility like your government did when you were in power. They didn't like it then and they don't want it now.

I'm surprised that you would put forward such a silly resolution this afternoon. Maybe if you got out and talked to the municipalities you would hear exactly what they're saying as well, and they don't like what you think are the good old days when the Liberals were in power, from 1985 to 1990.

I can say that I live in a border community. I know the border community situation very well. I've also heard what you have said in the past and what your party has said in the past. One day you blame it on tobacco tax. Another day you blame it on gasoline tax. Today it's blamed on Sunday shopping. I think we on this side of the House understand that cross-border shopping is a very complex problem that needs a complex and total solution, and we're working on that with the federal government, the municipal sector and the provincial government.

**Mrs McLeod:** None of us would say that the entire factor behind the cross-border shopping problem is Sunday shopping or that it can be entirely relieved with that, but surely the minister, having met with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, having listened to the concerns specifically of border communities, will know they are saying that the option of Sunday shopping is at least one which would help the situation.

The minister says he is listening and responding to AMO. It must be that he is moving to personal support for wide-open Sunday shopping, which is the alternative they have traditionally supported. We are aware that the minister joined his colleagues in meeting with the governing council of the New Democratic Party over the weekend to discuss whether or not the government should change its Sunday shopping law, and it is at least purported that he would personally have been in support of changing the law. Last week and again earlier today the minister met with caucus to consider changes on the Sunday shopping law, and we are led at least to believe that he has supported some changes.

Later today the minister and his colleague will have an opportunity to vote in favour of an opposition motion which advocates changes to the Sunday shopping law, and I wonder if the minister will follow through on his concerns and his convictions to support that resolution and whether as the government's House leader he will give his colleagues the option for open voting to express their concerns and convictions on the issue.

**Hon Mr Cooke:** It's with a great deal of regret that I'm not going to be here this afternoon for the vote. I'm going to be up in Bruce county meeting with municipal politicians and listening to what they have to say. But I can tell the member and my colleagues that if I've learned anything in the last number of months, my colleagues will

voice their opinion as they see fit. But if I was here and I was going to be debating the bill, I would listen to AMO and I would not support a resolution that said, "Pass the buck to the municipal sector."

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** New question, third party.

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** Mr Speaker, we'd like to stand down our first leader's question for the presence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

**The Speaker:** You are standing it down? New question.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** My question is to the Solicitor General. Considering the events of the last few days and the local municipalities' concern with respect to your non-performance on Sunday shopping, much has been made of the date or dates when this government will come down with a comprehensive piece of legislation to deal with Sunday shopping.

We've talked around this issue on a number of occasions. The Premier has said there will be legislation before the summer. Can you clarify to this House what exactly that means? When will the people of Ontario know what they can do on Sunday, whether it includes shopping or opening their stores? They at least have the right to know when you plan on making a decision.

**Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General):** As I've indicated previously, if and when this government has some alteration with respect to legislation to announce, it will announce it to this House and not before.

I must say as well in response to the member that the statements by his good friend Otto Jelinek with respect to opening stores on Sunday really, I don't think, were very helpful the other day. I'd like to urge the member opposite to convey to his counterpart in Ottawa that if he really wanted to do something about cross-border shopping he might direct concerns such as the imposed GST, keeping interest rates at artificially high rates, keeping the dollar artificially high and the signing of free trade agreements. I think those kinds of things are more immediate actions that would help solve cross-border shopping and the Sunday shopping issue.

**Mr Stockwell:** The question was very clear to the minister. There is little this House can do about those issues that you speak about. We don't represent the people of Canada; we represent the people of Ontario. Maybe you should get that through your head. By representing the people of Ontario, you can allow the consumers and the store owners out there to make a conscious decision—

**Mrs Cunningham:** Stop passing the buck.

**Mr Stockwell:** Don't give me any more socialist pap on the GST and issues affecting the federal government.

The question stands. I don't think anyone here would argue that it's a tough decision. Nobody's suggesting it is not, considering the statements your party made when it was on this side of the House. All the people in this province are asking is, "Tell us when you will make a decision." They're not even looking for a decision from you any more; they just want to know when. Give us a date.

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** Perhaps the member opposite could give us a date and some advice as to when he's going to be able to change some of the real difficulties that are destroying this province and this nation in this very recessionary period.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** I find it quite difficult to take advice from the friends of a government that has presided over the worst recession in this country in the last 60 years.

**Mr Stockwell:** This is embarrassing. This is absolutely embarrassing for the people of the province of Ontario.

I'll give you a date: June 20th. Would this minister now come forward in the House today and put all the concern to rest? All the municipalities would be given the opportunity of hearing what the legislation will be. The municipalities aren't saying to me, like the Municipal Affairs minister said, "Don't do what the Liberals did." The municipalities are saying to me, "Can you please ask the government to make a decision?"

To the Solicitor General: Please, sir, the people in this province would like to know what they can do on Sundays, whether their stores will be open, whether they will stop losing jobs, whether the people will stop cross-border shopping. They would like to know when you, sir, will make a decision. Stand up and be counted.

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** I'm very pleased to acknowledge the comments of the member opposite that he would undertake with his federal colleagues in Ottawa to establish a date to eradicate all of those very negative and difficult impacts on this economy, and I'm very pleased to rise in my place to assure them that on the very same date he is able to announce those in this House, I'll give him the date on this one.

1410

#### INCOME TAX

**Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt):** My question is to the Treasurer. The Treasurer will be aware that last week the Conference Board of Canada issued an updated economic outlook. Quite disturbing to many of us, the headline was, "Major Setback in Recovery 1992: Reassess Your Business Plans." This was issued by Mr Frank, who is the chief economist and someone who, I think most of the government members will recall, the Premier was quite complimentary about last year.

The reason the conference board revised its figures was the provincial budgets, particularly the Ontario provincial budget, and particularly because the Treasurer had decided, effective July 1, to take provincial income tax levels up about 5%—not just on the well-to-do, but people will be paying about 5% more provincial tax effective July 1. This is everyone. If you're making \$10,000 a year, you will be paying 5% more provincial tax. That was the primary reason the conference board gave for revising its economic forecast.

My question to the Treasurer is very clear: Why in the world would you choose July 1, the particular time when the economy is delicately balanced, to increase personal

income tax on every working person in Ontario? Why would you choose that time to stop the economic recovery in its tracks by doing something the conference board says is dead wrong?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** It's no secret by now, I hope, to the member for Scarborough-Agincourt that in the budget we tried to accomplish—and I think we struck the appropriate balance—three things: (1) we wanted to make a commitment to job creation and training, (2) we wanted to maintain the essential services which his colleagues are demanding day after day, appropriately so, in this House, and (3) we wanted to keep the deficit in check. As a matter of fact, his colleague the member for Kenora is on record as saying that the deficit's too high; we didn't cut enough. Perhaps we didn't raise enough taxes; I don't know.

I can tell the member for Scarborough-Agincourt that we raised taxes on July 1 from 53% of Ontario tax payable to realize for the province a 1.5% increase for the full year of 1992, and then up to 55% of federal tax payable on January 1, 1993. The simple answer is that by raising the tax on July 1 half the year is then available for the full tax to apply. There's nothing magical about July 1.

**Mr Phillips:** I feel very strongly about this because I think the people of Ontario have to realize that what you did is you took the tax rate from 53% to 56% on July 1. The federal government gave a modest reduction to low income earners in this province. You took back triple what they gave you. The conference board is very clear on this. They say: "We can put aside the hope that lower interest rates and inflation will rouse the consumer. Jobs are all that matter. Without overstating the case, the current situation is grim."

What is affecting jobs in this province is the fact that you have taken disposable spending out of the hands of not the rich but out of the hands of everyone. That is going to affect jobs.

My question to you, Treasurer, is this: As you prepared your budget you spelled out the jobs you would retain. Why did you not spell out in your budget the jobs that would be lost as a result of you unilaterally taking the personal income tax up July 1 by over 5%? There's no question of that. It went from 53% to 56%. Why was there not in the budget some estimate of the job impact of that particular move?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** The tax increase of Ontario tax payable from 53% to 56% took place on July 1 as 56% because it applies to the full calendar tax year of 1992. There's nothing mysterious or sleight-of-hand about that; that's the way the tax year is.

But it also needs to be said, perhaps, that when this government takes the money through the tax system, we put it back into the economy to keep the economy moving. Unlike what some of your colleagues are telling us, that we should have cut spending, should have cut programs, we decided to have a creative balance in this budget to create jobs, maintain essential services and keep the deficit in check. That's why we did it.

## PLANT CLOSURES

**Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South):** In the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, I'll go with the three-part to the Treasurer and Deputy Premier.

The Treasurer will know that the headlines in the paper today say, "Quebec Subsidies Hurt Ontario Firms." I have in my hand a list of projects in Ontario awarded to Quebec companies: Algonquin College, Bell Canada, Canadian Broadcasting Corp, Central Peel Secondary School. The list is about four and a half pages long regarding the Quebec firms that were awarded contracts in Ontario because of subsidies. What is this government doing to ensure that Ontario companies have a level playing field competing with Quebec firms?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** From time to time, members of the assembly and of all parties have raised the whole question of contracts being done in Ontario by out-of-province contractors. This has been a complaint that's been raised for a number of years. It's no secret, I hope, that this government stands for a reduction in the interprovincial trade barriers and the movement of labour. I'd be interested in knowing whether the member is suggesting that there should be some kind of restrictions on contracts being awarded to out-of-province contractors. If that's what he's saying, I would be very interested in hearing how he thinks that fits in with the reduction in barriers across this land.

**Mr Carr:** I also have a list of the companies that are out of business: Aerolator, 40 to 50 people; Arista-Newman, 40 to 50 people; Durable Equipment, 25 people; H and K Manufacturing, 80 people; Leblanco, 40 people; Robinsons, 50 people. This is a list of the manufacturers that have lost jobs. What are you doing to ensure that other companies like these do not end up losing jobs, and out of business, because of the practices that are going on in the province of Ontario today? What are you doing to assist these firms, or are you just going to let the remainder of the companies involved go out of business, go the same route as these people? There's about a page and a half of all the job losses as a result of this policy. What are you doing specifically to help companies so they don't go out of business like these companies listed here?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology would probably give the member opposite a more satisfactory answer, but I can tell you we are concerned about the number of closures, layoffs and shut-downs in the province. I think it would really be very unfair for the member opposite not to acknowledge the fact that probably the single biggest impediment to job creation and maintaining employment in this province is the free trade agreement, and your friends have a lot to answer for in that regard.

**Mr Carr:** It's interesting to note that in March of this year we had more exports to the United States than ever in the history of this country, during a period where it had a recession.

What we're dealing with here specifically is that some of the companies here talk about some of their concerns.

They talk about the escalating workers' compensation costs, the health tax, union and labour costs. They list about four or five pages here, as does the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. They put together some resolutions to help. They gave you specific recommendations on the economy, on the Labour Relations Act, on pay equity, on employment equity, on the provincial deficit—which you should be aware of yourself—on Ontario health care costs, reform of the Ontario retail sales tax, the Workers' Compensation Board, Ontario capital tax and private day care.

We have pages of simple resolutions on what we can do to help companies in Ontario, two and a half pages of resolutions saying this is what you should do to help industry in Ontario. Which ones are you going to implement so we don't have to stand up here and read the pages and pages of jobs lost because of your inaction in the province?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I can assure the member opposite that this government does not have the same kind of Reform-minded package he has in mind to keep jobs in this province. We recognize a right-wing agenda, a Reform agenda, when we see one, my friend. That is not the intention of this government.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** New question, third party. Just for the information of members, by rotation, where the third party had stood down their first leader's question they've now had that; so back into rotation means that the third party now has a backbencher question with one supplementary, then to the government side.

1420

## ONTARIO HYDRO SPENDING

**Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew):** My question is for the acting Minister of Energy. On April 16th the leader of our party asked a question regarding Ontario Hydro granting a \$7-million contract without public tendering. We received a reply from the chairman stating that the firm awarded the contract was the only acceptable source with the necessary expertise.

This province has many computer software firms that are world leaders in their field. They are competitive internationally and have developed first-rate technology. Is it appropriate, given the extensive expertise that exists in Ontario, to close the door on competitive bidding?

**Hon Brian A. Charlton (Acting Minister of Energy):** Let me be very brief in my answer to the member. When there is appropriate competitive bidding to be had, no, it's never appropriate to close the door on competitive bidding. The response from Ontario Hydro and the response from this minister on that particular issue were very clear. There was only one appropriate bidder in the case in question because, as was explained to the leader of the third party—obviously he didn't understand the explanation—it was a consolidation of three existing contracts which the company had already bid for and won.

**Mr Jordan:** The minister tells us these were the only qualified contractors. How they would obtain that information without going to public tender I would like to know. The letter from the chairman of Ontario Hydro also stated: "It is normal practice to request proposals, as opposed to

tendering, when an estimated requirement is greater than \$100,000." This was a \$7-million contract. There was not even a request for a proposal from anyone else.

I realize this firm has worked for Hydro in the past. However, the purchase orders we received through freedom of information requests note problems with respect to completing projects on time. Based on this obvious example of poor business practices, would you be directing Ontario Hydro immediately to initiate a review of its procurement policies?

**Hon Mr Charlton:** Absolutely not. Ontario Hydro's procurement policies are, in my view, useful and appropriate. I will just run through some of the facts in terms of Ontario Hydro's procurement.

In 1991, Ontario Hydro let 73,000 contracts. The vast majority of those were tendered in a full and open way precisely as the member suggests; 78% of those contracts were awarded to Canadian firms, and the exceptions the members have found are in fact legitimate exceptions, in my view. Having pursued the facts, they've made exceptions where they needed to make exceptions.

#### PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

**Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview):** My question is to the Minister of Education and is related to property taxes. As you know, over the past five or six years residents of Downsview and North York have been receiving property tax increases somewhere in the neighbourhood of 10% per year, and over that period their property taxes have shot through the roof. While these increases are painful for everyone, they are particularly painful for people on fixed incomes, people on pensions, seniors and people on disability pensions. Because people can no longer afford to pay these high property taxes, Mr Minister, can you give us some indication today that you're looking seriously at this issue and that property tax relief is on its way as it relates to the education portion of the property tax bill?

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** He's turning all red.

**Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education):** The member opposite is saying I'm turning all red. Actually, I'm quite fine, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** No, he's pink.

**Hon Mr Silipo:** Pink I will accept.

I appreciate the member for Downsview's concerns in this area. They are concerns that I and this government share, that is, the question of the high burden of property taxes that is placed upon many people, but particularly seniors in this case.

As the member knows, we clearly are looking at that issue as part of the education finance reform initiative that I announced in this House a couple of weeks ago. We will be looking with great interest to the report that will be coming from the property tax working group of the Fair Tax Commission. A draft report will come in June, with a final report from that group in September. Also, through the committee of school board representatives that I announced and others working with me, we will be looking at that

whole issue with a view to beginning some serious reforms in this area over the next couple of years.

**Mr Perruzza:** I would like to thank the minister for his very succinct answer. I look forward to further developments on this issue, because I have sat across from many people who have been in tears and who are in tears because they are in the process of losing their homes as they can't afford to pay these high taxes. I commend the minister for his efforts.

**The Speaker:** New question, the member for Parkdale.

Interjections.

**Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David):** When do I get my ruling on "goof"?

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. If the member for St George-St David could restrain himself, his own colleague the member for Parkdale could ask a question.

**Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale):** The member for St George-St David asked a pertinent question: When are you going to give a ruling on the term "goof"? But that's another matter.

**The Speaker:** Would the member for Parkdale place his question, please.

**Mr Ruprecht:** Of course; I apologize.

#### ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT

**Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale):** I have a question for the minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy. All of us know that this city has a serious drug problem. The recent Metro police report should have sent alarm bells off in the minister's office. Drug offences rose 16% last year. All our front-line social workers and every agency impacted by the misery experienced on our streets are crying out for some effective action in the field of drug treatment.

Mr Minister, you are saving more than \$51 million a year when you close access to drug treatment centres in the United States, and of that amount you're only spending \$9.4 million in addiction services. My question is this: When will you provide adequate drug treatment facilities for the more than 3,000 Ontarians who are unable to get the simplest of treatments and are turning to a life of crime to maintain their habits?

1430

**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for the Provincial Anti-Drug Strategy):** I have a bit of a problem in that the member continues to refer to me as "Mr Minister" each time he asks me a question. I have to keep reminding him that the portfolio has changed and that it rests with me now, and that "Ms Minister" or something else might be more appropriate.

In any event, the issue he raises is a very serious one. In fact, the reports we have in Metropolitan Toronto in particular give great cause for concern, and I know the member has raised these issues from his own community a number of times with me and with people in my ministry

and it remains a great concern for him and the constituents he represents in particular.

The reinvestment of dollars from out of country is an ongoing program. We have, as the member well knows, announced the \$9.4 million, although about \$4 million of that was for enhancement in treatment programs, and we were asking for district health councils to give us a prioritization on that. That process is close to completion, as the member will well know, and we will be making those decisions and announcements in the very near future.

I also have indicated on a number of times that we are monitoring savings from the restrictions on out of country, and we will continue to reinvest to enhance services. I do agree with the member that there is an urgent need in this area.

**Mr Ruprecht:** I'd love of course to call the minister "lady," but I'd be in big trouble with her own caucus.

Madam Minister, I have personal knowledge of a number of people who are unable to get treatment. Their parents are at their wits' end and are begging me to help their children who are on drugs. You know and I know that some of them are committing suicide or dying on the streets, and they are arrested for a terrible crime even before they commit suicide. I've called a number of treatment centres all over Ontario. At each centre, I get the same answer, "Our waiting period for treatment is 12 to 15 weeks."

My question is this: When will the minister be in a position to tell us? When are you really going to provide funds for treatment centres and when will you give this House assurances that the waiting period for drug treatment will be reduced significantly?

**Hon Ms Lankin:** I hope to be able fairly soon to give the member some accurate information around waiting lists. In fact, I think what he has quoted is probably very inaccurate, but I can understand if he made a few phone calls he might have received some information. I don't dispute that.

As the member will know, we established, for the first time in Ontario, the Drug and Alcohol Registry of Treatment, DART, which is in London, Ontario. It is a hookup for province-wide services as calls are coming in for us to be able to refer people to services that are available as well as for us to have accurate information about where there are gaps in services, about the greatest needs for the different kinds of services. There are residential services, there are day programs, there are services for hard-core addicts, there are other kinds of addictions treatments. It's important for us to have accurate information on a provincial basis of what the highest priorities are. That was not available prior to the introduction of DART.

DART has been up and running now and we're just about to get the first six months' results, which are still preliminary. As soon as we have those, I will be glad to share them with the member and with the other members of the House. I commit to him that as it becomes clear where we should place our reinvestment dollars, we will make those announcements too.

## SKILLS TRAINING

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** My question is to the Minister of Skills Development. Mr Minister, I know you're aware of the document called Local Boards: A Partnership for Training and that we're having hearings on the Ontario training and adjustment boards around the province right now—only five minutes, which is not enough, but we're having hearings.

I have a question for you. We're told that the 22 local boards will be replacing the 57 community industrial training committees. The CITCs will be replaced by these local training boards, just 22, so we'll have about half as many. There's a lot of expertise with the existing members and they're very concerned about the role they can play in the future, having established the relationships with the business community and with the training community that they have.

The question to the minister is, why are you dismantling the existing structure to begin from scratch, given what you've heard during the public hearings?

**Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Skills Development):** I believe the member for London North is aware that we are proceeding in tandem with the federal government and under agreement with it to replace the CITCs with 22 to 25, depending upon how it all falls out, local board structures. That was partly because the 57 CITCs that are there are all over the map in terms of representativeness, capacity, structure, responsibility and so on. It was our desire to have slightly more than the 16 the federal government wanted, so we got the numbers up. But we were not able in fact to agree upon a larger number.

At the end of the day, as I have told the CITCs, where things are working well, where there are people who are competent and able who have been plugged into the training agenda, we don't want to lose them and we don't want to see them put behind. There will be ample opportunity and more for everyone who's active in the training world in Ontario to plug in to the new structures in important ways, no question about that.

**Mrs Cunningham:** The minister is very much aware of the process that's been established for applying for these new positions, and he knows the new CITC members will have to be nominated by labour market partners for the new local boards. That's what has to happen. Regardless of what the federal government is saying, the minister well knows that this is an Ontario process and that they're anxiously awaiting the results of the process. There are no strings attached to it at all. We've talked to your people about this.

These CITC staff members, the existing people who are doing all the work, are not being protected in any way. Now, at the same time, the Ministry of Skills Development is through a process of transition. They're changing but they're protected. Nobody's losing their jobs. My question to the minister is this: We have able people working out there who are not protected. What are you going to do to change the rules at least a little bit to allow these people to have a fair chance at getting the jobs for which they are so well qualified?

**Hon Mr Allen:** They will be in the pool of candidates who will be available for the nomination process which will be locally based, which will be driven by the clients of the system, which will be driven by the labour market partners. Those people will have to take their chances with everybody else in terms of the staffing of the new boards.

Yes, it's true that we have a comprehensive human resource policy to facilitate the movement of personnel in government for which we are responsible. We have worked that out very carefully. We do not have an organized public responsibility for the CITCs as such, but there will be a responsible process put in place to provide access to those positions.

#### ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**Hon Elaine Ziemba (Minister of Citizenship and Minister Responsible for Human Rights, Disability Issues, Seniors' Issues and Race Relations):** Yesterday, the leader of the third party asked the Premier a question about the Ontario Human Rights Commission. I would like to clarify the situation and give a response today.

First, I would like to say that the Ontario Human Rights Commission has 15 area offices across Ontario. In those 15 offices they respond to intake in three different ways. There is intake by people walking into the office asking to lay a complaint, there is intake by telephone and there is also intake by mail.

In July 1990, the staff sat down to respond, making sure there was good client response and that they were giving good client service. They came up with a measure to try to be effective in certain regions. In four of the offices they have devised a method of using an answering machine so they can respond to their specific geographic area on specific days. In the north they do put on the answering machine so that they can go to visit the very far northern areas to take intake from those people in the north. At the same time, they might also be doing intake by mail and by people walking into the office.

In the other three offices—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Could the minister conclude her response, please.

**Hon Ms Ziemba:** —they do on those particular days—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. Has the minister concluded her response?

**Hon Ms Ziemba:** I am trying to respond to the leader of the third party, and he does want to have an answer. He's sitting very quietly.

**The Speaker:** Conclude your response, please.

1440

**Hon Ms Ziemba:** In the other three offices, people can still walk into those offices five days a week, Monday to Friday, 8:30 to 4:30, and lay a complaint. They might in those other three offices, however, put the answering machine on and respond to those phone-in intakes within 48 hours. This is because there is quite a large intake.

**The Speaker:** Would the minister conclude her response, please.

**Hon Ms Ziemba:** If there is a supplementary, I will respond.

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** After \$4 million that the Liberals threw in and another \$6.4 million that you threw in to deal with the backlog, to deal effectively with claims, we now have a situation that I brought forward yesterday where visitors in person going into the office are told to fill out a visitor's form, where phone calls are told to call back at three of the main offices right here in Metropolitan Toronto, where, I think you would agree with me, most of the complaints come from.

We have a situation where we're closed for business on Sunday, where we're sending the signal out around the world that Ontario is closed for business, but we did not expect from the NDP that we would be saying that the Human Rights Commission is also closed for business. Madam Minister, what are we going to do to give confidence to the many people in Ontario who have a sense of, "Don't waste your time phoning, coming in or lodging a complaint with the Ontario Human Rights Commission, because they're either too busy to deal with you, they're closed Tuesday and Thursday"—

**The Speaker:** Would the leader conclude his question, please.

**Mr Harris:** —"or it takes so long, you'll never get satisfaction going that way"? What are you going to do to give some confidence to those people?

**Hon Ms Ziemba:** Actually, the confidence in the Human Rights Commission has risen. We have addressed the backlog and the cases are diminishing at a fast, rapid rate. I don't want to mix shopping with the Ontario Human Rights Commission, because I don't think we are talking about that at all. Yes, people can go to the offices Monday to Friday and lay their complaints. They're not told to fill out a form. They are dealt with expediently and to the point.

I do have to clarify one other position. When it comes to the Ontario Human Rights Commission and adding dollars to it, I don't think there is anybody in this particular Legislature, whoever he or she is, whatever party he or she belongs to, who would want to deny somebody his human rights and would want to deny him his case. That is why we have done a comprehensive reform, to make sure that we address those issues. The first time we heard of a complaint about this particular method—

Interjections.

**Hon Ms Ziemba:** Just to sum up very quickly—I know it's very interesting and I don't want to take too long. I know that I've spoken very long—

**The Speaker:** Would the minister conclude her response, please.

**Hon Ms Ziemba:** —but I will conclude by saying that we have got a comprehensive strategy in place that is working. This is the first time we have heard of a complaint about an individual through the member for Nipissing. If this particular measure is not working and if we feel

that the client protection is not there, we will certainly look into that and change that particular measure in those three offices.

**Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North):** I'm so glad for that answer from the minister. Let me just refresh her memory about another case. A resident of Toronto recently contacted my office. She was another one concerned about the Ontario Human Rights Commission. In February this woman contacted the commission with her complaint about an incident that happened in Toronto. On May 1, she received a letter from the commission advising her that her case will be dealt with by the Timmins office. Yesterday, of course, we found out that some of the offices open on Tuesdays or Thursdays, and now we have an answering service that will take up the slack. Does the minister think it appropriate that people like this woman are getting bounced all over the province to have their cases heard?

**Hon Ms Ziemba:** I welcome the opportunity to address this question. However, this is the first time I've heard of this particular experience. What I would like to do, if you don't mind, is find out, investigate and come back with an answer to that particular question. However, I would like to reiterate that we are trying to respond very quickly to complaints. I do have some statistics about how we have grown on the issue of complaints. We had 90,000 complaints last year. That is a rise in interest and also shows the confidence building within Ontario. But to answer the specific question, I think what I would like to do is go back and ask the commission directly, and I will respond to you either in person or by mail.

**Mr Curling:** When I called Timmins, they told me what I should do is call the supervisor, who I think is in Sudbury.

Mr Speaker, as you know, recently the commission was fuelled by complaints from its own minority employees. Chaos is happening inside the human rights commission, which was compelled yet again to look at discrimination within the commission itself. Arnold Minors, who is also a member of the minister's code review task force, was hired to assist in this. Last Friday the commission released Mr Minors's report, which confirmed that minority employees of the commission experienced racism directly and often. This is the commission that is looking after racism. Will the minister personally assure this House that any employees of the commission who discriminate will be dismissed? I hope they will be fired if any of those practices within the commission are found out.

**Hon Ms Ziemba:** In response to the question of racism that might exist in the human rights commission, it was very brave that a year ago the chair and the commissioner decided to see if there were problems that existed within the human rights commission. They discovered, unfortunately, that there is racism that exists. It was brave because they tried to confront it head on. Instead of denying it, instead of covering it up, they confronted it and they are going to be implementing measures quickly. There are recommendations by Mr Minors and they are going to be implemented immediately.

I also have to raise another point. We are all very concerned when it comes to human rights issues. That is why we wanted to make sure, when we appointed Mary Cornish to the task force, that it had a short time frame, only six months, to come back with a report on how we could make the commission effective, so there could be just duty done to people who had complaints and we would address them completely. We are making sure that happens. Mary Cornish will be reporting on June 30. I will be welcoming everyone in this House to respond to that report and we will be sharing it with members of the House.

#### TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** I have a question of the Minister of Education. Because of the voluntary arbitration which the Carleton Board of Education secondary school teachers and the Carleton Board of Education have entered into, they will not come to a completion of that arbitration process for about 60 days. In the interim the elementary school teachers, who represent more students than the secondary panel, somewhere around 30,000 students, are on a work-to-rule campaign, and the students are suffering.

Would you consider phoning the teachers and the teachers' representatives and asking them to go back to doing all the things they would normally do as teachers until the secondary school dispute is resolved? There can be no doubt that the settlement with regard to the voluntary arbitration will have an impact on the elementary school teachers' situation. Therefore there seems to be no logic for the teachers to be working to rule at this particular time. Will you phone the teachers' representatives and ask them to go back and perform their full functions until the other dispute has been settled?

**Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education):** I regret I am not going to be able to give the member a direct answer to that today. I understand the issue he raises. My understanding also is that the negotiations are resuming tomorrow between the Carleton board and the elementary teachers. I think it would be appropriate for us to see what comes out of that resumption of negotiations before I do the kind of thing he suggests. I understand the issue he raises in terms of the effect on the after-school programs, and I'm sure that is also something the parties are taking very much into consideration.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The time for oral questions has expired.

1450

#### PETITIONS

##### RENT REGULATION

**Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean):** I have a petition signed by three constituents in my riding and the same petition is also signed by another eight constituents.

"To the Legislature of Ontario:

"The proposed Rent Control Act, Bill 121, will prevent apartment owners from carrying out necessary major repairs to residential rental buildings.

"This bill, if enacted, will result in the private sector being unable to build new residential rental housing, with an ensuing loss of tens of thousands of jobs.

"This bill will ensure that the non-profit housing sector will be the only builder of new residential rental units, at enormous costs to the Ontario taxpayers.

"Therefore we, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"To cancel the proposed Rent Control Act, to encourage the government of Ontario to work with tenants, landlords and all interested parties to develop a new law which will be fair to all and to ensure that in this new legislation the interests of housing affordability and tenant protection are balanced with a recognition of the importance of allowing needed repairs to rental buildings to be financed and completed and the role of the private sector in the construction of new rental housing."

I have signed the petitions.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** I rise to present a petition regarding a binding referendum for our Constitution, and it reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas we as citizens of the province of Ontario believe the constitution of any genuinely democratic society truly belongs to its people and that our views on any changes to Canada's Constitution must be heard and final approval of such changes must be given by the citizens of Ontario;

"Whereas up to this time there has been very limited opportunity for input from grass-roots Ontarians,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"We request of you who administer the affairs of this province to make available every opportunity for the people to see and understand fully what the new Constitution and/or any amendments thereto will mean to each of us and then make provision for a final say by the people of Ontario by way of a binding referendum."

It is signed by approximately 50 citizens who are residing in London.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Order. There are too many conversations going on. We will give some time for members to leave the House, for those who wish to do so.

**Mrs Cunningham:** This petition is signed by approximately 50 citizens who reside in London, Middlesex county and St Thomas, who are concerned about this issue, and I will hand it over to you and to the legislative page.

#### DEER POPULATION

**Mrs Ellen MacKinnon (Lambton):** Today I present the following petitions, of which there are about 800, on behalf of the residents of Bosanquet township in the county of Lambton:

"Whereas the undersigned are submitting these petitions to request that the Ministry of Natural Resources act on the request for a deer cull in Pinery Provincial Park to reduce the population of white-tailed deer."

I have affixed my signature.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition signed by individuals from O'Leary's Ltd paving contractors, which reads as follows;

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas investments in job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investments in jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

I have affixed my signature.

#### MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

**Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex):** I have a petition here signed by 21 constituents of the county of Middlesex, who petition the Legislature of Ontario to reject the Brant report. They are very concerned about agricultural land in Middlesex and the continuation of Middlesex as a viable county. I have affixed my signature to this petition.

**Mr Bernard Grandmaitre (Ottawa East):** I too have a similar petition, which reads:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I have signed the petition.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale):** I have a petition by individuals from Automatic Structures Ltd in Brampton, Ontario. The petition reads:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with these amendments."

I affix my signature to this petition.

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming):** "To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas amendments to the Education Act, 1991, Bill 125, propose to remove parental rights, section 50; and

"Whereas the current government, in removing section 50 of Bill 125, would empower the Minister of Education, not parents or boards of education, to determine the kinds

of religious education a child shall receive in public schools; and

"Whereas the rights of parents and students to have religious education which conforms to their own beliefs has been protected in the Education Act since before Confederation; and

"Whereas (1) subject to the regulations, a pupil shall be allowed to receive such religious education as his parent or guardian desires, or where the pupil is an adult, as he desires, (2) no pupil in a public school shall be required to read or study in or from a religious book or to join in an exercise of devotion or religion objected to by his parent or guardian or by the pupil where he is an adult;

"We, the undersigned, request therefore that section 50 of Bill 125, amendments to the Education Act, not be removed and that the rights of parents and students to have religious education which conforms to their own beliefs continue to be protected in the Education Act as it has been since before Confederation."

I will affix my signature to this petition.

#### MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

**Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand):** I have a petition signed by 25 citizens of Middlesex county petitioning the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I have affixed my signature.

#### FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming):** Sometimes we read petitions we don't agree with, but we exercise people's democratic rights to do that.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the French Language Services Act, 1986, Bill 8, continues to elevate tensions and misunderstandings over language issues throughout the province, not only at the provincial but also at municipal levels; and

"Whereas the current government disputes its self-serving select committee and intends to encourage increased use of French in the courts, schools and other provincial services to ensure that the French Language Services Act is working well to the best of their concerted efforts; and

"Whereas the spiralling costs of government to the taxpayer are being forced even higher due to the duplication of departments, translations etc to comply not only with the written but also the unwritten intent of the French Language Services Act; and

"Whereas the spiralling costs of education to the taxpayer are being forced even higher due to the demands of yet another board of education, the French-language school board,

"We, the undersigned, request that the French Language Services Act be repealed and its artificial structures dismantled immediately and English be declared as the official language of Ontario in governments, its institutions and services."

I certainly do not agree with this petition but bring it before the Legislative Assembly.

1500

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition signed by individuals from Daniel E. Oakes and Associates Ltd, and it reads:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment in jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

I've affixed my signature thereto.

I have a further petition on the same subject matter in the same wording as the previous petition. It is from individuals of MDM (Thunder Bay) Distributors Ltd. I affix my signature thereto.

I've been provided with a further petition, again on the same subject matter of the Labour Relations Act. It is signed by individuals of AFG Glass Centre in Thunder Bay. I have affixed my signature.

Again, a further petition; it's on the same subject matter dealing with the need for results of independent empirical studies on the Labour Relations Act. It has been signed by individuals of B & B Stone & Concrete Products Ltd. I have affixed my signature.

I have a further petition, signed by individuals of Richard and B. A. Ryan Ltd, again on the same subject matter. I have affixed my signature.

Mr Speaker, I understand there are no other members in the time allotted who wish to introduce petitions. If so, I'll take the time permitted.

I have a further petition on the same subject matter. It is signed by individuals of Breck-mar Sales Ltd in Ottawa. I have affixed my signature.

I have a petition signed by individuals of Basector Developments Ltd on the same subject matter. I have signed my name.

I have a further petition on the same subject matter, signed by Halco Building Components. I have affixed my signature.

I have a further petition again on the same subject matter. It is signed by individuals associated with Signode Canada in Scarborough. I have affixed my signature.

I have a further petition signed by individuals of Landmark Contracting Ltd in Ancaster on the same subject matter. I have affixed my signature.

I have a petition signed by individuals associated with Kenaidan Contracting Ltd, again on the same subject matter. I have affixed my signature.

I have a further petition, again on the same subject matter. It is by individuals of Bowne of Toronto. I have signed my name.

I have a further petition, again on the same subject matter and in the same wording, signed by individuals associated with Rondean Electric Ltd. I have signed my name.

I have a petition signed by individuals of Cambridge Curbs & Sidewalks Ltd on the same subject matter. I have affixed my signature.

I have a further petition, again on the same subject matter. It's signed by members associated with Loc-Pipe in Whitby, Ontario. I have signed my name.

I have a further petition, again on the same subject matter and in the same wording, signed by Lester Inks & Coatings Ltd. I have signed my signature.

I have a further petition, signed by individuals of Dave Boyle Excavating Ltd, which reads as follows:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

I've affixed my signature thereto.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### PEMBROKE AND AREA AIRPORT COMMISSION ACT, 1992

Mr Conway moved first reading of Bill Pr24, An Act respecting the Pembroke and Area Airport Commission.

Motion agreed to.

##### CITY OF LONDON ACT, 1992

Mrs Cunningham moved first reading of Bill Pr10, An Act respecting the City of London.

Motion agreed to.

##### EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT (MISCELLANEOUS), 1992

##### LOI DE 1992

##### MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR L'ÉDUCATION (DISPOSITIONS DIVERSES)

Mr Silipo moved first reading of Bill 20, An Act to amend the Education Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'éducation.

Motion agreed to.

##### EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT (EDUCATION AUTHORITIES AND MINISTER'S POWERS), 1992

##### LOI DE 1992

##### MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR L'ÉDUCATION (COMMISSIONS INDIENNES DE L'ÉDUCATION ET POUVOIRS DU MINISTRE)

Hon Mr Silipo moved first reading of Bill 21, An Act to amend the Education Act in respect of Education Authorities and Minister's Powers / Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'éducation en ce qui concerne les commissions indiennes de l'éducation et les pouvoirs du ministre.

Motion agreed to.

1510

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

##### OPPOSITION DAY

##### RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mrs McLeod moved opposition day motion 4:

Whereas the conflicting pronouncements of the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Solicitor General and the NDP caucus have created a crisis of uncertainty in the retail industry in Ontario;

And whereas municipalities across the province have demanded that they be given the freedom to decide whether or not they open their stores on Sundays;

And whereas in border communities, faced with a growing epidemic of cross-border shopping, the matter of Sunday shopping is of particular urgency;

And whereas 67% of Ontarians have expressed their support for more open Sunday shopping;

And whereas retailers across the province are facing severe economic constraints and have identified Sunday shopping as one solution to their difficulties;

And whereas in the face of this growing crisis the NDP government has irresponsibly delayed taking action while it awaits direction from the unelected members of its party;

And whereas the government has said that it is committed to creating jobs to lead us out of the current recession and it is acknowledged that more open Sunday shopping would stimulate jobs in the retail sector;

And whereas the Employment Standards Act provides considerable protection for workers who do not wish to work on Sundays;

Therefore this Legislature calls upon the NDP government to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act immediately and introduce new legislation which would allow municipalities to decide what is the best economic decision for their communities and responds to the growing public demand for Sunday shopping in Ontario.

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** The debate on this subject in this Legislature today really should not have been necessary. There are very few issues on which the public view and the public wishes have been made so clearly known. Ontarians have told us through polls that they want Sunday shopping. Some 60% of Ontarians on average across the province, and in some communities it's much higher, feel it's time for Sunday shopping to be a legitimate option in this province.

I think of the kind of change I've seen in a community such as my own, the community of Thunder Bay. I can tell you that some few years ago when the subject of Sunday shopping and the changes to the Lord's Day Act were first being addressed, members of my community were very divided on the issue of Sunday shopping. In fact, I recall that the local chamber of commerce presented a resolution calling for the retail stores to be able to open on Sundays, and their own retail section called for that resolution to be withdrawn because they did not feel it was time for Sunday shopping to be introduced in our community.

Yet last November, when the municipal election was held, there was a plebiscite on the issue of Sunday shopping.

That plebiscite passed by a vote of 2 to 1, which indicates that in our community, because we're concerned about the current economic situation—even though we are some 200 miles from the nearest American shopping centre, we are also impacted by the reality of cross-border shopping—the people of my community have said it is time for us to look realistically at the option of having open Sunday shopping so that our community can begin to respond to the economic difficulties we face.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs earlier today in our question period in the Legislature indicated that as he talks to municipalities across this province, he feels they are saying very strongly: "Don't go back to legislation that existed under the previous government. Don't give us back the municipal option." Mr Speaker, that is not what we hear from municipalities.

I will acknowledge that when that legislation was first introduced, municipalities were concerned about whether as a provincial government we were asking the municipal level of government to take on a responsibility for solving problems that perhaps they felt the provincial government should solve. I think what we've seen over recent months and years is that municipalities have increasingly said, "We want the option of being able to respond to the realities in our communities."

I would suggest that on an issue like Sunday shopping, the concept of a municipal option has real validity. This is the kind of issue on which one approach, designed around tables in Queen's Park, is not likely to be appropriate. I've seen a change in my own community of people who some years ago were not sure that Sunday shopping was in the interest of my community and who are now saying, "This is something we need." Yet I understand that in a neighbouring community some miles down the highway from Thunder Bay, the community of Dryden, indications are that some 90% of the residents would not be in favour of Sunday shopping for that community. It seems to me that this is a legitimate choice for a community to make and that what municipalities should be offered is a real option to make the kinds of decisions that will reflect the realities and the needs of their particular communities.

There is no question that this is an issue of concern not just to border communities, but it is perhaps of particular concern in border communities. We all know we've raised the issue again and again in this House, the devastating effect that cross-border shopping has had on the communities that are close enough for that to be an option for residents. We see that on this particular issue of Sunday shopping, Ontarians are actually voting with their feet—or perhaps it's more accurate to say that Ontarians are voting with their shopping dollars.

Ontario residents visiting the United States from 1990 to 1991 increased by 12.2%, while United States visitors to Ontario in that same time frame went down by some 3.4%. The figures suggest that at least \$2 billion in sales have been lost to the United States as a result of cross-border shopping.

We acknowledge, as again the minister indicated in the House earlier today, that Sunday shopping is not the whole cause of the cross-border shopping dilemma, nor is it the

whole response. But clearly people in border communities, through their elected representatives, their mayors and councils, have been saying loudly and clearly that they need some help to compete.

They've been asking for the option to open their stores on Sunday for over a year, and there has been no response from this government to their concerns. There's been no response on Sunday shopping; there's been no response on their call for a reduction in the gas tax. All there has been in terms of a response from this government to the concerns of border communities is an indication in the budget that one or perhaps two border communities might be offered the option of having a casino at some point in the future.

It's possible that the government, in looking at the legislation which it brought in just a short time ago, would argue that it does allow for Sunday shopping and that in fact it does allow for a municipal option. If that's the response the government is making, I would suggest that it listen a little more carefully to what the municipalities are saying and that it look at its own legislation a little more carefully. The government legislation not only fails to reflect the direction of the people of this province, it is legislation which in its very nature, its very design, is unworkable and likely completely unenforceable.

We look at the legislation. We see that if a municipality decides that it's in the interests of that community to have open Sunday shopping and wants to open its stores on Sunday, it must go to the effort of declaring certain areas of the municipality as being tourist areas, and in order to declare certain areas as tourist areas, the municipality must then make that designation somehow fit the criteria the government has set out in the legislation. The kinds of procedures that can emerge from the government's unwieldy definition of how you can become a tourist area go beyond unmanageability to verge on what is almost ludicrous.

I take just one hypothetical example: Suppose you were a retailer selling furniture in the middle of a community—take Cambridge just as an example—and the community of Cambridge decides that its downtown area is a tourist area. The furniture retailer would like to be able to join other retailers in opening the stores on Sunday. How does that furniture retailer demonstrate that he is in fact serving primarily tourists, which is what is required under this legislation in order for the furniture retailer to be able to join other retailers in having open Sunday shopping?

That particular retailer would have to determine how far a customer has travelled in order to determine whether or not that particular customer qualifies as being a tourist, and if he does in fact find out how far each customer has travelled to shop at the store on a particular day, he will know whether or not a majority of his customers can be designated tourists and therefore whether his store fits the criterion of serving primarily tourists.

It is mind-boggling to the point of being absolutely stupefying that the government itself is not anxious to change legislation that it must clearly see was ill advised when it was originally drafted. This legislation is such that, even if a community is so committed to resolving the economic problems that it faces and it takes all the steps that

are needed to qualify as a tourist area under the government's legislation, the municipality still faces the reality that the decision duly made by the municipality can be appealed, even by a non-resident of that community, to the Ontario Municipal Board.

I was travelling in the northwestern part of the province very recently and found that a community in the northwestern part of the province has gone to the extent of passing no less than 20 separate bylaws in the hope that it will be able to allow at least some of its retailers to open their shops on Sunday as the summer season approaches and hoping that if some of those bylaws are appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board, at least some of them may pass unnoticed or may in fact win an appeal at the board. It is ridiculous to think that legislation would put municipalities in a position where they have to go to such an extent, again simply to meet what they consider to be a real need in their communities.

These are the actions of a desperate municipality that's been made desperate by a government that has failed to provide any kind of positive direction or support to deal with the problems communities across this province are facing and a government that fails, in the midst of difficult times, to do what could so readily be done without any new resources.

1520

We all recognize that the economic situation, the debt situation, this province faces is difficult and totally unacceptable, but Sunday shopping is one of those options the government could exercise that could well be so successful that the provincial taxes from people beginning to buy and sell at home again might actually help reduce the province's debt.

In recent weeks we find emerging from this issue another concern, a very real concern, about the influence of non-elected, non-accountable people on the direction of this province. There seems to be a recognition that the Premier himself has heard the concerns of the people of this province. In fact, how could you not hear the concerns of the people of this province?

It would seem that the Premier and other members of his government know that changes are needed but we also know the Premier and other members of his government took some very absolute stands on this issue while they were in opposition. The Premier, as opposition leader, quite possibly provided leadership within his own party in persuading members of his party that Sunday shopping was something they should oppose strongly. It's also possible, I suppose, that the party was already heading in that direction and that the Premier, as opposition leader, was simply following the directions of the party at that time. In any event, what we know to be true is that when the New Democratic Party opposes something or someone, it is absolutely unbending in that opposition.

The Premier went to his provincial council last weekend to ask for a little flexibility in responding to what he knows to be the changing realities and needs of this province. The governing council of the party clearly said no.

As I indicated in the House yesterday, I don't often wish I could have spent a beautiful Saturday afternoon

sitting in on a meeting of the governing council of the New Democratic Party, but I would love to have watched that particular debate. We recognize, of course, that it would have been impossible since this was not an open meeting. Only elected government is required to conduct its business in the open by legislation that affects those who are elected representatives at all levels. But this non-elected supergovernment of the New Democratic Party, which seems too often to be the real government in the province of Ontario, meets only behind closed doors. They only talk to themselves and no one can challenge them either collectively or individually.

Government by the New Democratic governing council is a long way from open government and a long way from democratic government in which elected representatives make decisions and are held accountable in public session for their actions.

I wonder what the Premier will do now. He has heard the concerns, the voices that have been raised so loudly for so long in every corner of this province. I wonder if he understands that when you're elected to govern, you must govern for all the people. I wonder if he will continue to consult only with the New Democratic Party leadership and give it a power not only to influence his decisions but to actually determine what this government will do, or if he will act responsibly and in response to the demands and concerns of almost 70% of Ontarians and a majority of municipal governments.

No one said government was easy and only the very inexperienced believe you can find complete consensus on issues of major public policy. Seventy per cent support is as clear a majority view as you are ever likely to get and a government that really believes in consultation would surely be delighted to see that degree of agreement and would want to act quickly in response.

I believe that municipalities are ready to accept the responsibility of making decisions in the interests of their communities and are ready to make decisions that respond to the changing realities of their communities. All this government has to do is to give municipalities real freedom to act, and we call on the government to get on with it.

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** I appreciate and I'm surprised actually to have the opportunity to add my thoughts on this issue. I say I'm surprised because I did not think the Liberal Party would want to remind us that it is the one that created, with the lack of leadership, the considerable fiasco in this province we have today on Sunday shopping.

[Applause]

**Mr Harris:** I know the members of the New Democratic Party are applauding that, but, folks, look in the mirror at the mess you've made of it as well. I'm surprised, without introducing the motion myself, that I have an opportunity to comment on Sunday shopping.

The leader of the Liberal Party, in introducing the motion which—once again, members of this Liberal caucus are going to get very sore if they continue to try to sit on the fence on issue after issue. At a time when we require leadership, here is the Liberal Party saying: "It's too tough for us

to say if we're in favour of or opposed to Sunday shopping. Let the municipalities decide."

That's the leadership they gave us when they were in government, and it's why they are over on this side of the House. It's why they are no longer in government. So they come back with that great new philosophy: "Let's not lead at all, let's not take a position. Let's not say, 'Are we in favour of or are we opposed to Sunday shopping?' Let's leave it again to the municipalities."

I cannot believe that in fact this is the resolution they have brought forward for us to debate today. They are saying to us, "Let's scrap the lousy, unfair, unworkable NDP law and replace it with the lousy, unfair, unworkable law we had before." The fact of the matter is that leadership indeed is bringing forward laws, changes, policies that are appropriate for the time.

I'm always interested when I put forward the views of our caucus that we have not seen in the last five, six or seven years, if you like, any government or any body be able to come up with a piece of legislation that is fair. I want to leave aside the economic argument for a few moments, because there are times when principles and values stand ahead of the almighty buck. The only argument we have seen come forward from the Liberal Party and indeed from the New Democratic Party—which a week or two from now is going to make the argument for the almighty buck and is going to cast aside any value or principle that it said at one point in time it stood for.

But let's be honest and let's be up front about this. I've not seen anybody come forward with a piece of legislation that is fair. I want to take you back in time, because people have said, "Oh, well, your party was opposed to Sunday shopping." Quite true, we were. I want to explain to you the situation at that time when Frost, Drew and Robarts and indeed Davis expressed the desire to maintain a family pause day in this province, a common one. Sunday was that common one and indeed it reflected the values and the religions, if you like, of the majority of Ontarians at that time. Indeed, it also reflected the realities of the majority of business people and it reflected the values of those in Quebec and in Manitoba and to the south of us.

At that particular point in time as well, we made exceptions. We had exceptions for drug stores, we had exceptions for corner stores. What has changed then to say that we can't go back to that today? What has changed and why are the leadership and the laws and the policies today not the same as what they were even 10 years ago, let alone 20 years ago?

1530

What has changed? Let's examine some of these. Let's examine Quebec, where border communities there can go across the border and shop; Manitoba, where in some of them they can go across and shop; to the south of us, where they can go across the border and shop.

Let's examine the corner stores. The corner stores used to indeed be that. They would sell pop and Popsicles. I can remember going down to my corner store. We could get an ice cream or a Popsicle or a pop, and I guess my dad could get cigarettes—indeed, probably me, when I was 11 or 12 or 13; probably we were able to talk somebody into going

in to buy us a couple as well so we could try it. I guess that was part of growing up.

But you know, today in North Bay, and I think it's the same around the province, the corner stores are now full-blown grocery stores. How can you have a law that says a full-blown grocery store that calls itself a corner store because of location or because of non-affiliation with a chain or because of size can open but the store across the street cannot? That's not fair, regardless of the economic argument.

Let's look at drugstores. Drugstores, when I was growing up and when we had a law where we made exceptions, sold prescription drugs and patent drugs and a few associated medicines and what not that you would expect to find in a "narrow" definition of a drugstore. Maybe something is not the same in your community as it is in North Bay, but now the drugstores in North Bay are hardware stores, they're tire stores, they're clothing stores and they're food stores. It's not fair to say they can open but the Canadian Tire across the street selling the same products can't or the Pro Hardware down the street cannot.

So you have to ask yourself, what is appropriate legislation for today, for fairness, for equality of opportunity, for our businesses—aside from the economic argument of dollars lost outside of Ontario? I admit that puts added pressure. That's the one for which you're prepared to cast aside these principles you told us you stood so highly for, these values. When people voted for you you said: "No surprises. These are the values we believe in." That's why the public's so fed up with the whole lot of you today. Not only is your legislation silly and unworkable, but you stand for nothing either.

That's my main objection to you as a party and to the Liberal Party and to that whole—what it does is pass that whole net over the whole lot of us as politicians. Quite frankly, I object to that. I object to that and I am miffed at that and I am mad that the actions you are taking of standing for nothing, of telling us you have principles and then you've got new ones if you don't like those the next day, of not taking a stand, of not telling us where you stand, and this silly resolution we are debating today. Those are some of the things that upset me, really upset me and upset the public of this province.

The fact of the matter is that you cannot fairly any longer say, "This store can open on this side of the street and this one over here can't." We've already discovered you cannot define what a tourist area is. Your definitions, as the leader of the Liberal Party pointed out, are silly. They know it's silly because they couldn't find one either, because everybody has a different definition of what a tourist area is. Is it a tourist area if tourists come in? The farmers' markets are another example.

Interjection.

**Mr Harris:** I get many interjections. Do you want more examples of silliness? You say it's okay to rent videos on Sunday, so you allow the video rental stores to open. But they also sell TVs and VCRs, and across the street the store that sells VCRs and TVs can't open. What's going to happen? They're going to put in 20 or 30 rental videos so they can open and sell their products.

I know the Liberals are concerned, and I realize they still have not learned why it is they are in opposition. I realize that in spite of the fact that it's their resolution and they put it forward—

Interjection.

**Mr Harris:** I'm sure the member for Renfrew, who interjects not even from his own seat, will get an opportunity to speak if he has the courage to tell us: Is he in favour or opposed to Sunday shopping?

We are in favour of fairness, we are in favour of consistency, we are in favour of leadership appropriate for the times. Obviously, there is not a party—because the Liberal Party could not, the New Democratic Party could not—that could bring in a law that was fair, that would pick which stores could open and which couldn't, on which side of the street, which is a tourist area, which isn't, which stores selling what product can open and which cannot.

On those grounds alone, we should scrap the Sunday shopping legislation. We should scrap it and we should go with the experience we had for nine months when the Liberal law was ruled invalid. The Supreme Court said it was invalid, struck it down, and for that nine months we had what I call self-regulation. In fact we didn't have wide-open Sunday shopping. In North Bay very few stores opened, but they could have if they wanted to. Border communities could open if they wanted to.

The roof didn't fall in. I'm told church attendance was up a little bit. In fact a study that was done in Vermont when it made the change demonstrated that church attendance was up, that families decided, "Well, we'll go to church and then shop." I don't argue with the logic of it, but I just put that forward as evidence to those who say it will affect church attendance. It has not done that, nor did it during the eight months when we had what I call self-regulation.

We say scrap the silly legislation. Quit trying to legislate where legislation is no longer appropriate.

This resolution today I will oppose and my caucus will oppose because it offers no solution. It takes one silly piece of legislation—the members of the new Democratic Party know and we know they're going to change it. Our main criticism of them now is: Get on with it. Quit leaving us in this limbo. We know you're going to come out with a different position than what you have. We're quite well aware. We know 90% of the council is not in favour and the member for Welland-Thorold is not in favour, but apart from that we don't know anything except that there is this great vacillation, that in fact you're going to make the change.

But not this change, not the change proposed by the Liberals. This is the same unfairness. The leader of the Liberal Party said to think about a furniture store in Cambridge. Under your legislation, a furniture store in Waterloo or in Kitchener might be able to make the case that they're in a tourist area but the one in Cambridge can't and it will be unfair; they won't be able to open. I say think of the argument they're putting forward: If the city of Kitchener says it's open for Sunday shopping, if the city of

Waterloo says it's open for Sunday shopping, this poor furniture store in Cambridge, if Cambridge says, "Well, we're not," is out of business. It cannot compete, and that is not fair.

What about the community that borders the community, if we follow this Liberal resolution and say the communities can decide? So if the town of Callander opens up, what about the city of North Bay? Their stores cannot compete, and they in turn will have to open. What about the unorganized areas of northern Ontario? Those of you in southern Ontario don't understand that there are many areas of this province, probably the bulk of the land base, where the only local government is the provincial government. The Liberals would never state what their position is. Are they in favour or opposed on behalf of all those stores and those people who live in the unorganized areas of the province?

I can remember the day when they brought in the announcement. I raised the question with the then Minister of Northern Development, the Honourable René Fontaine, somebody who finally realized the Liberal Party was a disaster and quit. I raised it with him and he had never thought of it. He had never thought of it and the Premier had never thought of it; they forgot about northern Ontario.

So we are opposed to the silly nonsense of pretending the government knows best and the government can pick the stores that will open and those that won't. We are opposed to this silliness that abdicates the true leadership and responsibility of what must be a provincial decision.

If I applaud the New Democratic Party for anything on this issue, it is that at least it recognizes that it must be a provincial decision. You can't have one municipality doing one thing and another doing something different. I think that's why they know their own bill is so flawed.

1540

The Windsor exemption: You've got a mall half a mile outside of the Windsor downtown. They can't open. They thought the problem was solved. They said: "We'll be able to circumvent the Municipal Act and the OMB. Alan Tonks is wrong, and whole municipalities can declare themselves tourist areas." In fact, they're wrong.

If you look at Windsor, there is very much unfairness, where some stores in that downtown area now are open on Sunday under your legislation but many others are not. That's not fair, and I think the New Democratic Party knows that. They are a little slow responding. I'll continue to criticize that, and we'll see what solutions they come up with.

But I tell you, I finish as I started. I am absolutely amazed that the Liberal Party brought this resolution forward today, that it wants to remind Ontarians of how ineffectual it was and what lack of leadership it had on this issue in the time it was in government, and it's learned nothing. Their position is the same now as it was then, and for those reasons we will oppose this resolution.

**Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General):** I sat here and listened very carefully to the statements from the representatives of the official opposition and from the third party, and I would like to start my portion of the debate today by

saying that I really didn't hear anything that particularly surprised me.

The third party called for wide-open Sunday shopping and certainly everyone would agree that that's no surprise. The Liberal Party called for a return to the municipal option and that didn't surprise me, because I think the Liberal Party has been known, particularly on this issue, for putting forward ideas that have not always made very clear and direct sense. However, it did surprise me that they put forward an idea that has already failed in this province.

It is also not surprising that neither party truly spoke about or represented the interests of those people who have to work on Sundays to provide the rest of the province with an opportunity to shop. Once again it is left to the New Democratic Party to remind the two old-line parties that there are workers in this province and that they are in fact very important, that they have feelings and indeed also have rights as workers in this province.

This has always been the case and has been for some 60 years now. I'd like to remind everyone that it was the CCF that reminded Liberal and Conservative premiers about the interests of those workers and which fought on behalf of and for those workers.

Starting in 1961, it was the New Democratic Party that showed Premier Robarts, Premier Davis, Premier Miller and, yes, even Premier David Peterson that workers were real people who sometimes needed protection from the vicissitudes of this economy. The NDP has never forgotten its roots as a party which fights for the ordinary person, and so we enter this Sunday shopping debate firmly on the side of protection for retail workers.

This is not only about Sunday shopping. It is an issue about Sunday working. It is a question of finding the right balance between those two. We must find a balance between the rights of workers and of small business owners on the one hand, whose desires I suppose are contradictory to the desires of those who want to shop or open on that particular day. I must admit, as we've heard from all the parties here, that it is indeed a very difficult balance to find and to achieve, and I think all of us, including this side of the government, recognize that.

We have passed a law here in Ontario, Bill 115, that provides for the protection of workers, it provides for a common pause day and it also provides for tourism exemptions for bona fide tourism areas. Now the bill has been in effect, I guess, for approximately six months, and in that time this government has heard from increasing numbers of consumers and retailers who appear to still want Sunday shopping.

As an open and accessible government, we are listening to the people. We decided that this was an appropriate time to review this particular issue. The opposition parties find this process of review difficult to believe and demand immediate action. The funny thing is that they were the ones who created this problem in the first place.

It was a Progressive Conservative government that created the Retail Business Holidays Act in 1975. In 1985 the Liberal Party was elected to government. It is calling for immediate action, but it took it not one, not two, not three, but four years to deal with this issue. Is that what the Liberal Party considers immediate action? This is the same

Liberal Party that introduced the municipal option that is found in its very motion it presented here today.

The Liberals opposite seem to have very short memories. Perhaps they do not remember how they themselves were roundly criticized from one end of this province to the other for abdicating their responsibility and putting an unfair burden on municipalities of this province.

In its motion the official opposition mentions the issue of cross-border shopping as well. In fact, I also heard the comments made yesterday by the Minister of National Revenue for Canada, Otto Jelinek. Once again, it seems to me the official opposition and the federal Conservatives are looking to simplistic solutions to some very complex problems.

As we all know, cross-border shopping does not occur only on Sunday; in fact, it occurs every day of the week. People shop across the border for a number of reasons, many of which are the direct result of the rather ruinous economic policies of the federal Progressive Conservative government. Ontarians cross the border to shop in anger at the unjust and unfair GST. Ontarians also cross the border because of the artificially high Canadian dollar. Ontarians cross the border because of years of artificially high interest rates that have crippled our small business community. Ontarians cross the border because of free trade, which tells us that American products putting Canadians out of work is somehow good for Canada.

Otto Jelinek says Sunday shopping will help the cross-border problem. Do you believe him? Can you believe the man who was the minister responsible for introducing the GST? I have a word of advice for Mr Jelinek and the federal government. If they really want to help the cross-border issue they should withdraw the GST, which has done such great damage to our retail sector and has driven hundreds of thousands of Ontarians across the border.

The motion by the official opposition also talks about our government awaiting direction from the unelected members of our party. Once again, I believe the motion by the official opposition in this respect displays, unfortunately, I must say, an ignorance of reality in this way: The official opposition, which often uses its own party simply as an electoral and fund-raising machine, does not understand the New Democratic Party is a grass-roots democratic organization that believes input from its grass-roots members is important. I must say that does not mean we will be directed by the party, but we certainly want to hear from the members of our party.

As our Premier has said time and time again, this government is not only about the card-carrying members of our party but it is about all the people of this province whom we represent in our role as government. We are an open and accessible government. We listen to all of the people, including the membership of the New Democratic Party.

Unlike the Tories, who seem to have a special ear for big business, or the Liberals, who seem to have an ear for big developers, we want to listen to all the people in this province. In the final analysis, however, after listening to different views, it will be up to this government, this cabinet and this caucus to make a decision on this issue.

The opposition motion talks as well about creating jobs. Quite frankly, I'm surprised it would raise or mention this issue, because our government obviously has been taking the lead on this issue. We are further ahead on this issue than any other government in Canada and perhaps even in North America. Our recent budget, which has been quite favourably received throughout this province, has jobs as its very first priority. We are committed to creating high-paying, high value added, full-time jobs that will make Ontario more competitive in the global marketplace.

Contrary to the opposition notion, I would also like to point out that we accept no acknowledgement that wide-open Sunday shopping would stimulate jobs. I believe that is simply speculation. It will be interesting to see in the end analysis, when jobs are displaced in the early part of the week, what the net gain is, if any.

Finally, I would like to thank the official opposition. I don't want to be all negative in my comments this afternoon to the official opposition. I want to thank them, for in the very motion they've presented here today they express their appreciation of our amendments to the Employment Standards Act. Our amendments to the Employment Standards Act are good amendments.

As I have stated before, the goal of this government is the protection of workers. This was the priority of this party as we entered into this debate and it still remains our top priority. There is also one other thing I believe everyone can be very certain of, and I'd like to close with this: While government is reviewing the issue of Sunday working and Sunday shopping, our government's commitment to the protection of workers will always remain.

1550

**Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North):** First I would like to commend my leader for putting forward a motion to be debated here which is a topic that has been in the minds and hearts of all Ontarians and those outside Ontario too. I think it is a well-crafted motion, regardless of what the leader of the third party says.

Everyone knows where the Liberals stand on this. It has been plain and open for discussion. The law has been in place, and although there are criticisms, everyone knows where the New Democratic Party stands, wanting a common pause day. I don't hear that very much now. They don't speak about wanting a common pause day any more; they talk about Sunday shopping.

As for the dear Conservative Party, I'm not quite sure. I know when the member for London North, one of the most capable Conservative members, was running, she was very much against Sunday shopping, and I think she still stands in the same position. I listened very carefully to the leader of the third party, the member for Nipissing, and I don't know where he stands on this. He lacks leadership. It's incredible that he stands in the House today and criticizes the Liberal Party for its position and he hasn't taken a stand one ounce. He makes these platitudes, these model statements that he's for fairness and for all these wonderful things, but I haven't heard him say anything. One of the things I gleaned from what he was saying is that he said something about, "Leave it alone and let it happen." That's

how the Conservatives usually behave anyhow. They can't make any decision. Leave it alone and then something will happen along the way.

Who is at fault? To be honest with you, Mr Speaker, I really don't care who is at fault for the mess we're in. The fact is, we must make some decision now and this is what is happening now. This government has lacked direction. We have the Solicitor General one minute saying something, then we have the Deputy Premier saying something else and then we have the Premier saying something. He said, "I presume what the Solicitor General is saying may be so, if he's saying so." What this province needs is leadership. We need someone to be precise. That's what government is all about, to govern, and we're not getting that out of the government we have today.

We look within the caucus, for instance. The member for Sault Ste Marie proposes that the government allow stores to open from 1 pm to 5 pm on Sundays. Then we have another member who is advocating that we should open altogether. Some will fight it to the bone and say, "We want Sunday shopping." Others are saying, "No way." I even gather that the member for Hamilton East is now being influenced somehow to change his mind. I think as his other caucus members work on him it's quite possible he may be shifting to say we should really have Sunday shopping.

But again, the caucus is all over the place. When we were listening for some decisions or even one sole decision from the government, it says it would have to go back to its NDP provincial group in order to hear where it stands on that.

**Interjection:** What's wrong with that?

**Mr Curling:** Not a thing wrong with that. Lo and behold, as they walked in there, 90% of their members said, "Listen, we don't want any Sunday shopping." So we said, "Okay, that's clear, that's precise, now that the Premier has gotten the direction of where to go, since he is looking all over the place." Then he came back and announced in the House that the government and the cabinet will make the decision.

I am confused. One minute he was telling us it is not clear the cabinet is going to make the decision, but the NDP unelected group will make the decision. They told him and he hasn't done so. I want you to understand that my dear Aunt Nonie, way up in the north there, wants Sunday shopping in Kingston. Aunt Nonie expressed her thoughts to me and said she is not concerned at all that we shop on Sunday. She said she remembers the day you couldn't even play a ball game on Sunday. Today we have a ball game, we can open stores, what have you.

Let me talk about the ridiculous act about the tourist exemption. Mr Speaker, I don't know if you've had time to look through that. I don't know if these members have had the time to look at this tourist exemption. It is the most ridiculous law I've ever seen. As a matter of fact, sometimes I am a tourist. I live in Scarborough North and most of the members there have expressed to me that they want Sunday shopping. There are some who don't like to have Sunday shopping. So again, when we talk about the

municipal option we feel very strongly as a Liberal Party that in each region it's different. In other words, it showed that the Liberal Party was listening, not only to the people of different ethnic backgrounds or different disciplines in business but also from the region, where it varies.

If I leave my riding of Scarborough North and just go up to Oshawa I become a tourist—or maybe just to Pickering, nine miles out, I'm a tourist. As a matter of fact, if I moved from one part of my riding to the other I'd be a tourist—not the member any more, but a tourist within my own riding. Furthermore, even that business regarded as a tourist attraction, if it hasn't got the architectural design, poor Aunt Nonie wouldn't be able to shop there, even though it has all the other criteria. Furthermore, if one member, one constituent, is objecting to that fact, what would happen? They can protest and then it is all held up. It's ridiculous.

I think this government that has praised itself as listening to the people has closed its ears. Maybe they are listening. Maybe we have it all wrong. I think they are listening, but they are not understanding what the people are saying. You see, maybe they are hearing but not listening. I don't know, because we can't get the decision out of this government where it wants to go on the Sunday shopping issue. The evidence has shown that the economic situation today requires some creative thinking, some facts where people need the extra money in order to come through this recession. But oh no, they refuse to listen. They're going to set the moral standard for this province. In the meantime, setting the moral standard, they said, "I'll tell you, casino gambling is okay." Some people call it gaming. Casino gambling is okay, but to shop on Sunday is very bad for families, while gambling is not bad. You hear of people going to what they call Alcoholics Anonymous or Gamblers Anonymous; I've never heard about Shoppers Anonymous, people who have to go basically because they don't want to shop.

We're not talking about people who are spendthrifts. We're talking about people who want to shop on a day, sooner or later. But of course we can establish the casino in order to do that and you don't have to set any moral standard on that.

1600

Interjections.

**Mr Curling:** In the meantime, those members who are yapping over there should just listen for a moment, for the areas like Scarborough North and Scarborough Agincourt—and again, it's the same thing when people are speaking to them. What would they say to this government? They're not making sense. They have made up their minds what they want to do and we can't even understand what they want to do. We don't know if they have Sunday shopping or not. While certain things are right, in other words, they are wrong.

This government is adrift. It has no leadership, it lacks any decision. They can't even give you the precise date. They change by polls or they will change by their provincial caucus. They just cannot make up their minds. There are many other things, many issues that must be dealt with

that we'd like to move on. Make a decision. Let's move on. It will not be perfect. As you go along, amendments can be done. We're here as opposition. Don't listen to the Conservatives because they have no constructive views anyhow. They sit there and criticize and put nothing forward. We have put something forward. I'm telling you, Mr Speaker, that we are here and wish to give constructive ideas. There are laws on the books that will work very effectively for this province.

As I wind up in summary here, knowing some of my colleagues would like to speak, I want to tell you, Mr Speaker, that you have an opportunity. You have changed your mind on about six or seven other issues so far. Here is an opportunity to say you have listened, you have even gone to your caucus and it has told you what it wants. There are wranglings within the caucus right now. Every time you go to a Tuesday meeting and you stay outside, another decision comes out. The longer you stay, the worse it will be.

So I say to you, Mr Speaker, I support this very strongly. I feel that, as we move into other things, the Sunday shopping issue will be way behind us.

**Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South):** I'll be very brief.

**Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East):** Where's your chicken?

**Mr Carr:** The chicken has been put away for today. I will just be attempting to talk about it today. I was reflecting it was November 21 when I got up, and we had spent the long, hot summer going around debating this bill and I never thought it would come back, but here we are again.

**Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew):** Remember the day when we were in Kingston and the lady said, "Don't tell me what to do on Sunday."

**Mr Carr:** Yes, it happened in Kingston when the lady said, "Don't tell us what to do." The present bill is unfair, it's unworkable and it's bad for the economic wellbeing of the province of Ontario.

I'm going to go through some of the points here and talk about the ones I'm opposed to. I think the first one is right. The Office of the Premier has created the big controversy with this. They read the polls, they saw there was widespread interest in opening. They're the ones who gave the retailers the assurance: "Don't worry, we're going to get this thing through, notwithstanding what is happening with the NDP council and the caucus. We'll get this thing through." That's what created this whole problem. What we and the public are saying is we are fed up with this issue. Just stand up and do it one way or the other. Let's not have it one day, not have it the next day. People on all sides of the issue want to have it resolved once and for all.

The problem with this bill is, putting it in the laps of municipalities, we'd be going all back over that whole territory again. We went around and most municipalities I went around during that period with the standing committee on the administration of justice said: "We don't want to have this thrown in our laps. We don't want to deal with this particular piece of legislation." They said, "We don't have the time to get involved in all this."

They're the ones who said: "Forget it. Will you politicians in Queen's Park make your decisions? We can't pass it on to another level of government. We're the last level of government. We can't palm tough decisions off on another level of government. You were elected to make a decision. Make a decision." That's what municipalities were saying. I think almost every day we had municipalities coming in and speaking on this bill. That's what we're saying. Will we once and for all make a decision one way or the other and stick to it?

If you look through the final paragraphs it says, "This Legislature calls upon the NDP government to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act immediately and introduce new legislation which would allow municipalities to decide." They don't have the political courage to make the decision, so they try to pass it on to another level.

Most people say that if we gave it to municipalities what would happen is that some of them would open. For example, in Collingwood they voted to open. Hamilton-Wentworth has voted to open. What would happen is that there would be this snowball effect and everybody would be open. One municipality would say, "The neighbouring municipality is open so we need to be open."

But the problem is that the blame would not be on the provincial politicians, so you could play both sides of it. The blame would then be shifted to the municipal politicians. It's a game of political ping-pong, because we all know there has been great debate on both sides. Many groups feel very strongly about it. So when they come up with a tough decision, instead of making the decision and living with it, in the Liberal tradition we either consult or pass it to another level of government to make the decision. That isn't what people want.

One way or the other, what I encourage this government to do, regardless of what direction it takes, is to end the uncertainty and come up with a policy everybody can live with. That's what I said during that period of time. That's what I think people on all sides of the issue would like to see. That's why I fought so strongly not to have it go to the Ontario Municipal Board, because that's what this government wanted to do. Then they could blame it and say: "No, the municipalities had the tourism exemption. It was their fault and the Ontario Municipal Board backed them up. The heat's off us now. The heat's off us as provincial politicians." I think that's why a lot of people are cynical and sceptical about politicians, because they won't stand up and make the tough decisions.

I would be more encouraged if the government said, "We're going to stick with this piece of legislation, we're going to shut down on Sunday," or if it said, "We're going to open up entirely." But come to a clear decision and end the uncertainty. I talked about it last November. I thought one good thing about this bill—I know my friends the member for Guelph and the member for Durham East had some nice summer nights going around the province. It was very enjoyable, but we need to make a decision. Let's end it once and for all.

I don't think this motion will do it, so I will be opposed to it. I hope that once and for all this government will get its act together. Come to a conclusion, meet with whom-

ever you need to, whether it's your council, whether it's your caucus, and come up with a decision so the people can put this one to rest, so retailers and the people of this province will know, one way or another, where they stand. That's what I'm asking of this government. I won't be supporting this resolution.

**Mr Mills:** It's interesting to debate this motion today in light of the fact that I don't think any party has been able to come to grips with it. It's a real conundrum. As the parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General, I had the dubious pleasure of travelling the province with Bill 115 and, I must say, every day upholding the government's position and listening to the various presentations.

It struck me that it didn't matter that we would go into one town and have the local Canadian Tire store owner there violently opposed to opening on Sunday and the chamber of commerce from that one town with all its members very keen to open on Sunday and then the very next day we would go into another location and the Canadian Tire store there would want to open on Sunday and the chamber of commerce would resolutely say it didn't want to open on Sunday. It wasn't an easy task. It has never been an easy task here.

I'd like to say a few things as they affect me as the member for Durham East. Some of the things I have to say are not necessarily reflective of the government or the government position.

To start off, I want to talk about small business. That's another conundrum we have to face with wide-open Sunday shopping. Just along the street from where I live in Toronto there's a dry cleaner. He says to me: "You know, if you allow wide-open Sunday shopping, that will result in Sketchley and Cadet being open. Then I will be forced to open to get my portion of the business." He said, "We came here in 1960, my brother and I and our family, and we run this dry cleaning business six days a week. We really look forward to and appreciate that day of rest on Sunday." They're some of the people one has to consider if you decide to change, when our friends across there say we should open.

1610

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** Gordie, you are not going to close down the Dutch Oven, I hope.

**Mr Mills:** My friend talks of the Dutch Oven. That's very near to Orono, where I live. It purveys fine food, and I guess you go through there on the way to—

**Mr Conway:** And the little gift shop? I spend money there every weekend.

**Mr Mills:** Anyway, I'm speaking to you, Mr Speaker. We heard too on the tour the concerns of big business. I must say that unless you're sort of deaf in one ear, you must listen to those concerns.

They also had some concerns about drugstores on the tour. I know that one particular drugstore seems to have cornered the market that would allow it to open. I personally had great concerns over some of the bigger drugstores, which said they would agree to program their electronic tills to only dispense drugs and things on the weekend and forgo the selling of their grocery items. That to me in

retrospect seems rather a fair solution to allowing some of those other drugstores to open, if they would be restricted to just drugs.

Of course, we can't talk about changing this bill without talking about worker protection. That really is the whole thrust of the common pause day. We're not talking solely about Sunday shopping, as my colleague the Solicitor General said; really the issue is Sunday working. I know that a number of family people have come to me and urged me to continue the fight to not change because of their family day on Sundays. I must say that I'm not a Sunday shopper, nor have I ever been one, nor do I ever intend to be one. But having said that, I don't think I have a right to come into the Legislature and attempt to influence or legislate my lifestyle on other people. I'd like to think the problem is so far-reaching and is of such concern to so many people in Ontario that, rightly so, we have to relook at it.

A lot of people say this government flip-flops and goes from one sort of idea to another. Nevertheless, I think that as a member of the government I have to recognize the fact that we live in a very changing society. Goodness only knows—and I've said this before in this House—that back in 1944 it was against the law for anyone to go to the movies unless he was a serving soldier. I mean, that is absolutely preposterous.

**Mr Conway:** It was 1964 in my little town.

**Mr Mills:** Well, the member for Renfrew North says 1964, but I know that in 1944 you had to be a member of the military to even be allowed into the movies. That just goes to show you how preposterous the law is and how one has to look at and focus on change, because if you ever considered such a thing today you'd be laughed out of the House. I think we live in a changing society here too, and we have to recognize that there are a lot of people out there who want to shop on Sundays. Personally, I think that unless we look into that option, we too will be bogged down in those pre-war or postwar criteria. I think that perhaps five years down the road, looking back on this debate today, it might even seem as silly as looking back on the debate in 1944, because personally I have no doubt at all that Sunday shopping in Ontario will eventually happen. What we have to do is to make sure that if we are doing the changes, they are fair, and that the people who work on Sundays or are required to work on Sundays are protected.

I used to work part-time at a department store. I had to go to a wedding one Saturday, and I remember saying to my supervisor that I wouldn't be able to work on Saturday. That supervisor said to me, "Well, that's fine." The next week I looked at the notice board and the hours that I was supposed to work, and they were cut back considerably. So I went to the supervisor and said, "You've cut my hours back this week; is that punishment for me not working on Saturday?" and the person said, "No, it isn't punishment, but you know we have to share the hours around." But I was interested to note that after that, I agreed to open the garden centre in that particular store on Sunday afternoons

and that from that point on I never suffered any cut on hours.

So there is a concern of workers about Sunday working. We know we have the legislation there that some people think is adequate. I don't know if we will ever have adequate legislation to deal with the peculiarities of the human mind and how they get back at people and how they use people.

I won't be supporting this motion for one reason: I've had contact with AMO and it is absolutely opposed to going back to the previous legislation the Liberal government introduced. They said no, no, no to that legislation. They don't want us to slough off legislation to the municipalities. They want the government to be responsible for that.

I am speaking to the resolution that's before us. I must say that, being a straightforward and forthright person, I have made it publicly known in my riding of Durham East that I would support Sunday shopping, but I will support Sunday shopping after careful thought to how we can do it. It took the Liberal Party four years to come to grips with it and I don't see anything wrong, at this point in time, in taking a little bit longer and looking at everything to see if we can make it fair and right. Above all, I feel we have to protect the small shopkeeper. We have to look at protecting the storekeepers who have stores in malls which would be squeezed, and above all, we have to protect as adequately as we can the people who still want to treat Sunday as a day of rest. With that comment I will thank you.

**Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South):** I would like, of course, to support the resolution put forward by the leader of the Liberal Party today, which basically calls for Sunday shopping, employee protection and the opportunity for retail merchants to survive this recession.

I want to make a comment or two on the speech given by the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, who basically said today that there should be absolutely no regulation, no legislation and no such thought in regard to Sunday shopping.

What the leader of the Conservative Party forgot, which is very important, is that there exists today, in law, the opportunity for municipalities to regulate store hours, store openings and store closings in all the municipalities in Ontario six days a week. From Monday to Saturday municipalities have the authority to regulate store hours, store openings and store closings. It makes common sense to give municipalities the authority to do seven days a week what they already do six days a week.

That is one of the reasons why, in the last Parliament, the Liberal government gave municipalities the opportunity to regulate store hours, store openings and store closings on Sunday.

The other reason is very simple. Ontario is geographically larger than France and Spain put together, a tremendous mass of land with people stretched from one end to the other, many holding different views and many working within different economies. I would dare say the economies in many parts of this province are far different than the economies of the border cities of Ontario.

I want to talk a little bit about the border cities, because we have four government members here in this Legislature from Windsor and Essex county—

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**Mr Conway:** And Steve Langdon.

**Mr Mancini:** —and Steve Langdon, who is the ex officio member in the Legislature. We have the member for Windsor-Sandwich, the minister who represents Windsor-Riverside, the member for Windsor-Walkerville and the member for Essex-Kent, all of them residing within Windsor and Essex county. They know better than anyone else within the NDP socialist government what Sunday shopping means to Windsor and Essex county. They know better than anyone else what the mayor and the municipal council, the merchants and people who wish the opportunity to work on Sunday have said and yet they have turned their backs on their own community. They have said: "We don't care what you want. We're not prepared to give you the opportunity to compete with those megastores across the river in Detroit."

Interjection.

**Mr Mancini:** I hear one of my NDP socialist friends from across the floor who lives some place in the great metropolitan region of Toronto. I'm reminded, when I hear such interjections, of the Minister of Revenue for Ontario coming to Windsor, being escorted by the top officials of the city of Windsor and other individuals to the corner of Riverside Drive and Ouellette Avenue, which is the centre of the business district in Windsor. If Riverside and Ouellette die economically, Windsor is finished. So the minister was brought to that intersection; she looked across the river—this is a minister of the crown, I might add, having already been in government more than a year—and saw those skyscrapers in Detroit and said, "My, I didn't realize Windsor was so close to Detroit." This is from the Minister of Revenue, who has been lobbied constantly by the federal government, local government and others to try to collect sales tax at the border. This comment, made by a Minister of Revenue in the NDP socialist government, was so disheartening to the people of Windsor that it took a considerable amount of time for us to realize the naïveté of some of the people who actually sit in the government across the floor. I'm sure, because I know some of the members from Windsor and Essex county, that deep down each and every one of them was thoroughly embarrassed by the comments of their own minister.

I've gone through some newspaper clippings over the last year in regard to what has been happening in the Windsor and Essex county area. I want to read some of the headlines to the members because it's obvious that over there some of the NDP socialist members believe they should pay attention to some obscure, unknown-to-the-general-public NDP provincial council instead of the people they were elected to represent. The last time I looked at the list of 130 constituencies I did not see a constituency noted NDP provincial council. I didn't see that on the list.

Why would a government have to say, "We're setting aside the wishes of the people that sent all of us here so we can consult with a group of people who have access to the

back doors of the government and cabinet ministers, people who raise money for the government"? Why should we have a government listening to them instead of the wishes of the people who had their say some 18 or 20 months ago?

"City Food Stores Closings Loom," Windsor Star, March 22, 1991. "Border Mayors Unite," April 4, 1991. The border mayors got together to try to press this government, to try to get it to listen.

**Mr Conway:** Remo, not 1921; 1991.

**Mr Mancini:** I'm sorry. No, not 1921; 1991. It seems like 1921 because of the attitude of this government. "Sunday Debate: Message for the NDP," April 8, 1991, an editorial critical of the NDP socialist government. "Shoppers Flock to Amherstburg," which is open on Sundays. The NDP members of the Legislature say that Sunday openings don't make any difference; people won't shop. Well, in communities where stores are open, they actually do shop.

"Passing the Buck on Sunday Shopping" was an editorial critical of the NDP socialist government. "Bob Rae Growing Up in Public," Saturday, September 7, 1991, said: "No, you are not mistaken. Premier Bob Rae did not indeed commit his government to introduce state-run auto insurance." It goes on to talk about "all of the promises that were made in naïveté that were broken by the government and yet, for some unknown reason, they refuse to bend on Sunday shopping."

"Sunday Shopping Draws Thousands. Retailers Hopeful When the NDP Government Opened Up Ontario Stores for Business Just Before Christmas." We saw what retailers are prepared to do. "Sunday Business Beats a Handout, Retailers Argue." I guess the NDP socialist government would rather put employees on social services or unemployment insurance instead of giving them the opportunity to work on Sundays.

Editorial after editorial has spoken out in favour of getting Windsor and Essex county the opportunity to compete, the opportunity to have a retail sector, the opportunity for people to have jobs. The NDP socialist government is not listening. We want it to listen. People in Windsor and Essex county deserve a chance to have a future.

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** I want to speak briefly today on the opposition day motion with regard to:

"Conflicting pronouncements of the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Solicitor General and the NDP caucus have created a crisis of uncertainty in the retail industry in Ontario;

"And whereas municipalities across the province have demanded that they be given the freedom to decide whether or not to open their stores on Sundays."

This debate has gone on for many years. I remember back probably some 20 years ago, when I was the head of a municipality, a store wanted to open under the old law which would allow an exemption under the tourist area. A great debate took place with regard to the individual business that wanted to open, because it deemed it was in a tourist area. It ended up a tied vote and the reeve had to split the vote. Of course, the reeve got out of the chair and put somebody else in the chair and therefore didn't have to

split the vote; but the reeve at that time seconded the motion to not allow the store to open on Sundays.

That was been my belief for many years, that there was no need for business to open on Sundays. That was, of course, under the old law. Times have changed. We have had an administration that has brought in allowing municipalities to make the decision of whether they should open or not.

We have a new government now that brought in another law that has changed the previous Liberal legislation. I was on that committee when it travelled the province. I remember in Windsor we had different delegates coming before that committee making announcements with regard to the common pause day. Protecting the workers was one of their major issues. We even had Bob White—and I've heard that name around before; I believe he represents some union workers—who spoke very eloquently with regard to the common pause day, how important it was and how they should protect workers.

So there have been a lot of discussions taking place with regard to cross-border shopping. Cross-border shopping is not going to stop because the law has changed and will allow businesses to open. Some of the areas—Sarnia, Windsor, Niagara Falls and some of Metropolitan Toronto—there's no doubt there would be a benefit to those municipalities and some of the major border municipalities to be allowed to open seven days a week. It would perhaps save several businesses and would put money in the pockets of some of those border communities, but the real reasons for cross-border shopping are gas, booze, cigarettes and competitive prices. Perhaps some of the businesses here should be looking at a more competitive price, but the problem has been that the government has laid so much tax on them that it's very difficult to be more competitive than they already are.

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My leader is very forceful with regard to doing away with the laws and letting people open or close, whatever they want to do with regard to their business. There are some members in the caucus who don't agree with that, and that's why we have an open caucus where members are allowed to get up and speak, make their presentations and talk about how they feel with regard to Sunday shopping.

In the city of Orillia, we've had a bylaw for many years which has allowed businesses to open on Sunday, and there's nothing wrong with that. There were hardly over 10 businesses that opened, but the ones that wanted to could proceed to do it. Just not too long ago they passed another bylaw wanting to open under the new legislation, and guess what happened. Somebody objected to the OMB. If we went back and had the original legislation with the tourist exemption, you wouldn't have to worry about going to the OMB, you would simply pass a bylaw in the municipality and allow them to open.

I had the occasion last Thursday to travel the riding and talk to constituents about this very issue. I was surprised at the amount of people I talked to who said, "We really don't need to be open seven days a week." I had one individual who indicated that she felt it should be open

because she was out of work and she would be able to get a job.

Rural Ontario, small-town Ontario, is in a position where they really mostly are family-run businesses and they won't open anyway, regardless of whether there's a law that would allow them. But the benefit of opening in major tourist areas is jobs for students. There are many students now who do need the summer employment to help get through university, and I look at that aspect.

They say, "We're in a depression, and if we have Sunday shopping we're going to come out of the depression." The United States is in a depression too. What are they going to do to get out of it? Anything different than we are?

There should be a provincial law, if there is one, and not with the municipalities, but what some people are saying is: "We don't need a law at all. For those people who want to do business on Sunday, they may be free to do it, if that's what they want. I don't want to do it." I had people talk to me the other day saying: "Whatever your salary is, you don't need an extra day to spend it. You can spend it in six days quite easily."

The views out there are varied. You can look at your percentages, but sometimes it depends on where that poll was taken to determine what the percentage is. Some of them are saying they don't need the seven days to spend their paycheque, but I also observe what's happening in Ontario and I also happen to see the need, and if those businesses feel they can survive by being open, then I believe they should be allowed to do that and continue on.

In the hearings that were held across the province, I'm not sure what percentage it was, but it had to be close to 80% of delegations that came before that committee that wanted a common pause day and worker protection.

It's going to be interesting to see what legislation comes forth, and it's not going to be easy to satisfy or try to satisfy the majority of the people. I wanted to put some of the things on the record as far as I am concerned with regard to the common pause day. I believe it has been good. We have to look at fairness for families. We have to take that into consideration, that time together, to try and make people realize that there is a common pause day so they can spend more time with the family.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to say a few words.

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** My colleagues tried very hard to convince me I should be elsewhere this afternoon, but I thought I would want to take part in the debate. As someone who's witnessed the way this issue has buffeted this legislative chamber over the years, I thought it would be missing an opportunity to remind people of some things this afternoon.

**Mr Conway:** They won't let me talk this afternoon, so I have to mutter.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Well, I think the Liberals should allow the member for Renfrew North to speak on this matter.

**Mr Conway:** It's just the stupidest debate. We have been having it for 20 years and we're no further ahead.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Order, the member for Renfrew North.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** We are here debating a motion by the leader of the official opposition, in the name of Ms—Mrs McLeod.

**Mr Conway:** I am Marion Boyd's watchdog on the new lexicon.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Well, I'm reading the Orders and Notices. It refers to the leader of the official opposition as Mrs McLeod. That's the point I'm trying to make.

I will get down to the matter at hand here. The issue of Sunday shopping has plagued the two opposition parties about 15 years now. I recall back around 1975 it was an issue way back then. In 1986, when of course the official opposition was in power, the report of the Ontario Progressive Conservative task force on extended shopping hours recommended that a common pause day be maintained. I believe those were the exact words. So the Conservative policy of that day was that a common pause day be maintained.

In 1987, when the Liberals were in power, the select committee on retail store hours supported the principle of a common pause day for the province as well. Then, of course, the Liberals changed the legislation and created what is commonly known as a municipal option.

**Mr Conway:** Which is, as you know, what the tourist exemption meant for 25 years.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Of course, now the official opposition now calls on us to throw Sunday shopping wide open, then brings in—

**Mr Conway:** No. You're being disingenuous again.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Well, in the House, day after day in question period, what comes across the floor is that we should throw Sunday shopping wide open. Then, lo and behold, the leader of the official opposition comes forth with a resolution that would indeed go back to the municipal option. I can't understand the Liberals in this province at all. The debate has moved, my friends.

We are now talking about whether or not there should be wide-open Sunday shopping in the province. The Liberals say: "Oh, no, we don't want to engage in that debate. We want to go back to the way we did it, because we knew best." That's what the Liberals in this province are saying.

I want to tell the official opposition that nobody is supporting the Liberal position. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario mocks the Liberals on this policy now. There's no other word for it; they're simply mocking the official opposition.

**Mr Conway:** If your policy is so good, just stick with what you've got. You don't need to change anything then. Your brilliant status quo need not be changed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. The member for Renfrew North, please.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I didn't word this resolution. This resolution was worded by the official opposition. If they're embarrassed by the wording, they should have

thought of that before now. If they're not embarrassed by it, then why are they being so touchy when I remind them that what this says is that we should turn the clock back to exactly the way it was when they were in power? Talk about the height of arrogance.

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**Mr Conway:** Dissembling always annoys me.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** There's nothing dissembling about this.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. The member for Renfrew North, I ask you, please, to remain quiet. The minister has the floor.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I don't understand why the official opposition is heckling so much when I'm simply trying to understand—

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** You're irritating us.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I'm not trying to irritate the official opposition. I'm simply trying to remind people that what's before us here basically is the municipal option the Liberals thought was so great when they were in power, which satisfied no one then and satisfies even less than no one now, if that's possible.

**Mr Conway:** I don't agree.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Well, that is the case. If you don't believe me, go and ask the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and see what it thinks of this position. They ridicule this position.

I think perhaps it needs to be said that Sunday shopping, while it's an issue of some importance in the province, is not the most important issue in Ontario and not the most important problem facing people in this province. There are a lot more important problems than Sunday shopping—

**Mr Conway:** Like jobs.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Like jobs—whether you're talking about cross-border shopping or the level of unemployment among youth, which the member for Renfrew North has so articulately in this House from day to day. There are other things that are of much more importance, even though somebody who tuned into question period from time to time would think that, with the exception of the member for Renfrew North of course, the only issue of importance in the province was Sunday shopping. That's simply not the case.

We know, for example, that if we had Sunday shopping in the province it would, I think, cause a reduction in some of the problems in the border communities. I believe there would be an impact on that. However, most of us understand that cross-border shopping is a seven-day-a-week problem. It's not a Sunday problem alone. There's no question about that, I think, so let's not blow the importance of this issue out of proportion simply because it happens to be in great favour with some of the tabloids in this city.

I would never suggest that the tabloids in Ontario, whether it's the Toronto Star, the Toronto Sun or the Globe and Mail, had any kind of vested interest in this issue. I

would not make that suggestion. However, I've heard others make it.

**Mr Conway:** You don't make people read Gerry Caplan and Michele Landsberg every week?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** There are people who would suggest that it's not an entirely objective editorial view as to whether or not the province should have open Sunday shopping.

I did want to put on the record some of the things that this government has been doing that I think are of more importance to people in this province than Sunday shopping.

**Mr Conway:** Floyd, just say there's going to be no change in the current policy and let's move on to another order of business.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** The member for Renfrew North suggests that we should say that there's no change in policy. I don't know whether that's his position or whether he thinks it should be our position. I'm not sure. We're talking about the official opposition's resolution before us today, which says to turn the clock back to when it was in power so we'll have the municipal option for Sunday shopping. That's what they're saying.

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. Minister, you have the floor.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I think I need some evidence of that, Mr Speaker.

All I'm saying to the members opposite is that I don't know how my colleagues will vote on this—I didn't ask—but I cannot support this resolution.

**Interjection:** I'm not either.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** You see, I think that maybe a number of our colleagues won't support it because it really does turn the clock back. But I didn't want to be derailed from what I wanted to say this afternoon.

This government, in the budget that just came down, took some important initiatives on renewing the economy of this province. We have been hit by the toughest recession since the 1930s. It's been very tough, and it's not just Ontario, of course, but other parts of Canada as well and in the United States. Despite that, or perhaps even because of that, if it makes the members opposite feel a little better, we responded in an appropriate way.

The budget is going to create and support about 90,000 jobs in this province. That's an important signal of confidence in Ontario. I sometimes wish the official opposition and the third party had the kind of confidence we have in Ontario and would get off the train of gloom and doom they seem to be on. It is time we all reacted in a more positive way, because we all have a great deal at stake in getting out of this recession.

In this budget, this government made the largest commitment to jobs and to training, and particularly to training and apprenticeship, that's ever been made in the history of Ontario. That was an important initiative on our part and we're going to continue to make sure that whenever possible, we intervene in a very positive way. We also took action on research and development incentives for the pri-

vate sector and on improving the current cost allowances for the province. These things will do a lot more for Ontario than open Sunday shopping would ever do; there's no question about that. We also lowered the rate of tax on manufacturing, processing, mining, fishing and logging from 14.5% to 13.5% and lowered the small-business rate from 10% to 9.5%. Those are important initiatives that we took in this budget.

Interjections.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I know members opposite think it's not important to show this kind of support to the private sector. This government believes it's important, and that's why we did it.

I don't want to inflame members of the third party, but does anyone think that wide-open Sunday shopping could possibly make up for the damage done by the federal Tories and their GST and free trade? Does anybody possibly think that? You couldn't; it's not possible to think that.

I'm pleased that members of the third party didn't become inflamed when I said that, but it really was important to get that on the record, because I think most of us understand how much worse the cross-border shopping issue has become since GST and free trade were initiated by the federal government. There's no question about that.

**Mr Conway:** Give us a little word on casinos.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Well, I think if I could relate the establishment of casinos in the province to Sunday shopping, I would, but I might be ruled out of order by the Speaker. So I want to stick strictly to the resolution that's before us.

There is no question that the whole issue of Sunday shopping has changed in the minds of the population of this province, no question at all. Not that we're governed by polling, but I understand the polling shows that about 70% of the population supports Sunday shopping now, and in some parts of the province it's a lot higher than that. In the area I represent, I wouldn't think it's that high. I haven't seen any polling that's specific to the area I represent, but I'd be very surprised if it's as high as it is in Toronto or in the border communities. It's not that big an issue in some parts of the province, but there's no question that public opinion has changed.

This government, being of the responsible type, is assessing the whole issue of Sunday shopping. We've never said we're not keeping an eye on this issue. We must, as a responsible government, understand that times change. That doesn't mean we rush out the minute a new poll comes out and say, "Oh, oh, we've got to change our position today." That's not the way this government functions. I can tell the members opposite that we are examining this issue. We're keeping a very close eye on it. We also know that if we were to change our position and have wide-open Sunday shopping, there would be people who would not be happy with that decision either.

**Mr Conway:** Ask Mel Swart what he thinks of Bob Rae.

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**Hon Mr Laughren:** Well, you might ask the member for St George-St David. He will tell you that, that there are

many people. Ask the member for London North, from the Conservative caucus, what she thinks about Sunday shopping. Ask a lot of small business people who are now open on Sunday whether they think everybody else should be allowed to open on Sunday too. There are all sorts of people out there, all sorts of organizations, all sorts of businesses, that do not want to move to Sunday shopping; no question about that, no question at all.

The opposition parties are telling us that immediately a poll comes out, bang, you change your position. That's what they've been saying in this House now for a month. Things have changed and the best solution they've got for the recession we're in is Sunday shopping. It's surely a bankrupt political party that sees Sunday shopping as the solution for the recession. Members opposite have been hinting at that very strongly in this House day after day.

Interjections.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I don't know why the opposition is getting so upset about its own resolution. This is their motion. It's the leader of the official opposition who brought this motion before the House this afternoon.

I know my friend from Renfrew North, the dyspeptic dilettante, is very unhappy with the fact that he's not sitting over here now and he wants to see this government twist in the wind on every issue that comes before it. I want to tell the member for Renfrew North that all we are doing is making sure we manage the issue properly and carefully. We're doing nothing more and nothing less than that.

I can tell the members opposite that their view that this is an issue with only an up side is wrong. There is a down side to Sunday shopping as well, and that has to be kept in mind. There are people who don't want to work on Sunday. If there is a change in the law, there would have to be substantial protections for people who don't want to work on Sunday.

**Mr Conway:** Why would you ever have casino gambling if Sunday is so sacrosanct?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I don't know why the member for Renfrew North is preoccupied with casino gambling.

**Mr Conway:** Because I thought the NDP had principles, that's why.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Minister, I would ask you to address the Chair, not the hecklers.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Who is the dyspeptic dilettante addressing, Mr Speaker? I would ask you that question. Certainly not the Chair.

However, I don't want to dominate the debate this afternoon and take up any more time. I would simply say that I'm disappointed in the opposition day motion that stands in the name of the leader of the official opposition because it's so unimaginative.

Interjection.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Well, it is. It's a step back into the time when they were in power, as though they could recreate those wonderful days of Louis XIV in Ontario. It's simply not appropriate to go backwards in time.

I can tell the members opposite that if this government were to change its position on Sunday shopping, it would not be to the position put forth by the official opposition. Heaven forbid. We are not so bankrupt in ideas that we would see going back in time as the solution.

Finally, I hope the members of the opposition understand very clearly that there are a lot more important problems facing this province than the question of Sunday shopping.

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** Hear, hear, so let's get this one of the table.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Well, the members of the opposition say they understand that, yet it's not evident in their behaviour in this Legislature that they have any understanding of that whatsoever.

This government moved aggressively in the budget to address the problems of the recession. We did it three ways: (1) We made a very serious and substantial commitment to jobs and training; (2) we were determined to maintain the essential services of health care, education and social services in the province, and (3) we kept the deficit in check. Those are three things that are a lot more important at this time in the province than the motion put forth from the official opposition that would take us backwards in time.

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** I am pleased to rise this afternoon to participate in this debate on the Liberal leader's motion, which reads as follows:

"Whereas the conflicting pronouncements of the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Solicitor General and the NDP caucus have created a crisis of uncertainty in the retail industry in Ontario;

"And whereas municipalities across the province have demanded that they be given the freedom to decide whether or not to open their stores on Sundays"—then the resolution continues with a number of points that appear to suggest that the Liberal Party is in favour of wide-open Sunday shopping, then it concludes by saying:

"Therefore this Legislature calls upon the NDP government to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act immediately and introduce new legislation which would allow municipalities to decide what is the best economic decision for their communities and responds to the growing public demand for Sunday shopping in Ontario."

I'm pleased to be able to follow the Treasurer this afternoon and to listen to the ad for the NDP and its economic program. He carefully skirted around the issue as much as he could and I didn't hear him indicate his own personal position on the Sunday shopping issue. We've all recognized that this is a very difficult issue, and while we all recognize that it's probably not the most important issue facing Ontario today, it's very difficult. It's difficult because it's an emotional issue. It brings values into question, whether it be religious values or freedom of choice and people's desire to have freedom without the government telling them what to do or whether it be family values. These values elicit an emotional response, and it becomes very difficult for anybody to achieve a consensus on Sunday shopping. We've seen it for many, many years in this

debate, whether it be Sunday openings or Sunday sports or Sunday whatever, and it's quite difficult for governments to deal with.

In my own personal view, I have a very strong opinion on Sunday shopping which I'll get into later, my colleague the member for Lanark-Renfrew, my good friend, has a different perspective, my colleague the member for Oakville South has a different perspective, and today my colleague sitting beside me, the member for Mississauga South, has a perspective that I think I share. But we respect each other's opinions, and my party's leader has a different perspective on it than I have, yet he has given us the latitude and respects our views enough to have given us the freedom to stand in our place, to have said we can represent our constituents and that he has no problem with that and he respects our views. I respect him for that.

If you look at the resolution presented by the Liberal leader this afternoon, it very carefully puts out the Liberal view on Sunday shopping, which is trying to sit on the fence, as was their view in the past during the election campaign: the local option they talked about as being the best solution. Because, as we've seen, it's a very difficult issue, they want to slough it off on somebody else so they don't have to face the heat that will come as a result of whatever decision they take. So they slough it off on to the local municipalities so the local councils can make a decision.

As we've heard many times this afternoon, I don't believe the Association of Municipalities of Ontario supports that view. They don't want the issue, which they see as being provincial. I support their sentiments in that regard. They believe the province should set the guidelines and I wholeheartedly support that. Where the Liberals have actually indicated in their resolution "whereas municipalities across the province have demanded that they be given the freedom to decide whether or not to open their stores on Sundays," I haven't heard any information that this is in fact correct and I would question the accuracy of that statement.

Why is the local option bad? If I don't support wide-open Sunday shopping, which I don't, I'm very concerned about the local option because I see it as something that's going eventually to lead to wide-open Sunday shopping, because of competitive pressures, because of the government policy, as espoused by the Liberals at the time, forcing municipalities and putting them in a position where it's very difficult to say no to people they go face to face with. I support local autonomy, as a member for a rural riding, but I do believe that it's very, very difficult for local municipalities to deal with Sunday shopping. They have said consistently—consistently—that they don't want to deal with it and they've asked the province to deal with it, so I would support that.

1700

The NDP response has been interesting. It's been inconsistent on a weekly basis. There have been repeated flip-flops. We never know what's going to happen from one day to the next; the government comes out with a new position. They went around in the election campaign in the summer of 1990, and what they said was: "We are in favour of a common pause day. We're in favour of protect-

ing workers' rights and we're in favour of ensuring that there is a common pause day for all Ontarians."

They couched it in such high principle that you almost believed them. You almost believed that they were sincere in what they were saying, but of course, now we're a year and a half away from the election. It's not that long since the election, but of course we don't have principle any more in this issue. We have, I guess, a response to what they see as a change in the polls situation.

They told their own constituency workers, who they valued so highly as an important constituency that they wanted to maintain, "We'll make sure there's a common pause day." Now they've sold out their own people with the apparent flip-flops that they've been making, the weekly change in policy. In all likelihood, we will see in the coming weeks—we have seen many signals of it—a repeal of their Sunday shopping law, which has only been in effect for a few months. Again, we're seeing a government that can't make a decision and stick to it.

Of course, we know that the main reason, the main catalyst, for the latest flip-flop on the government side, when the Premier was away and the Office of the Premier was making assurances known to certain retailers that they better not open and, "Don't worry, we'll deal with this very soon," was the government's announcement that casinos were going to be a part of the Ontario landscape, when the Treasurer announced in the budget just a short few weeks ago that they were going to bring in casinos.

The sheer—I don't want to say "hypocrisy"—but the issue on one hand of casinos being encouraged and allowed for tourist reasons, trying to get people up for the weekend so they can gamble on Sundays, and yet stores not being allowed to open on Sundays, the clear unfairness to anyone. In fact, I think what happened after that was that the store owners were looking at this and they couldn't believe it and they threatened civil disobedience. The government responds by saying, "We'll change our policy once more for the 13th or 14th time in the last year and a half."

I don't want to take up any more time because I know other members of my caucus want to speak on this issue, but my position on Sunday shopping has remained the same since I entered public life. It has not changed. I still believe—and I spoke on this issue in the election campaign at length—that there is considerable social benefit to allowing as many families as possible in Ontario to have one day together when they can spend the time together, when they have no outside influences, when they're not being asked to work. I believe the government has an obligation to work towards ensuring that this is a possibility, that as many families as possible do have that opportunity. As I say, for that reason I have no hesitation in stating that I will not be supporting this motion this afternoon and I would leave it that for this afternoon.

**Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour):** I don't intend to speak very long, but I think there are a few things that are worth saying on this particular subject. I can tell you that in the almost 17 years I have had the privilege of being in this place now to debate what we've gone over a number of times—I was, however, a little surprised with the special motion that we had from the opposition members

here today, because I get the sense that they have learned absolutely nothing since they made the mistakes that got them tossed out of office a year and a half ago.

The positions generally, in my experience in this House, have been pretty consistent. The Tories have usually supported some form of common pause day or anti-Sunday shopping, although I sensed, when I listened to their leader today, that they might now be ready to go for wide-open Sunday shopping. But up until this point in time at least, we had a pretty good idea of where they were coming from.

We were never certain just where the Liberals were coming from, and they came out with their municipal option. I think the Attorney General with their party had something to do with it, because it's one of the things that got him into some trouble. The standing joke around here was the number of times you've been right in the decision, the number of times you've been wrong. The municipal option just wasn't one that was popular in the province.

I read this resolution today and I see that it says, "And whereas municipalities across the province have demanded that they be given the freedom to decide whether or not to open their stores on Sundays." Right off the bat, that's not what I'm hearing from AMO; it's not what I'm seeing even in some votes in some of the municipalities. It's obviously a statement that doesn't necessarily hold water.

Then they say, "And whereas in border communities, faced with a growing epidemic of cross-border shopping, the matter of Sunday shopping is of particular urgency." While I'm willing to concede there might at least be an argument that can be made there, I also find it interesting—although admittedly this was a Tory survey and not a Liberal survey—that a recent federal study on the impact of Sunday work upon cross-border shopping should lay to rest any illusion of Sunday work as a solution to cross-border shopping. I'm not sure I would state it as strongly. I can say, however, that I don't think the case has necessarily been made that the problem of cross-border shopping—I think others, including the Treasurer, have made the argument—really is simply going to be answered by wide-open Sunday shopping.

"And whereas 67% of Ontarians have expressed their support for more open Sunday shopping": I think a couple of things have to be asked about that. I'm not at all sure it would reach that percentage, although I'm one of the first to agree that there seems to be a bit of a shift in public opinion. But I think one of the things we have to ask ourselves—and I think it's a legitimate question—is whether or not that shift in public opinion is driven by fear of the current economic situation. That's a major factor. Without that, I think you cannot really tell.

What would happen if, for example, as a result of wide-open shopping in the retail sector, which basically this is aimed at, or the entertainment sector, public sector workers who don't have to work Sunday now were told all of a sudden, "Hey, this is going to mean that other workers and public employees are also going to have to work on Sundays"? I suspect those figures would drop rather dramatically. While it's a convenience to shop on Sundays,

I'm not at all sure they would like to have to work on Sundays.

"And whereas retailers across the province are facing severe economic constraints and have identified Sunday shopping as one solution to their difficulties": Where's the proof to that? It's one thing that hasn't been presented to me. I haven't seen any proof that this is going to resolve that problem. I want to deal with that a little more later.

Then it says, "And whereas in the face of this growing crisis the NDP government has irresponsibly delayed taking action while it awaits direction from the unelected members of its party." Others may not like it, but I want to make it clear that one of the things that makes me proud to be a New Democrat, and why I have been one most of my working life, is that we are based on convention decisions and something that means something and a view of our people. I want to say also that this doesn't mean I don't understand that once you've been elected in this province you have a responsibility to all the people in your riding as well. So I accept that we may not always do what is a party position or what is a position as a result of some input into the organization you belong to. But I can tell you that connection, that history, that background and that involvement of people in our riding associations are what I think have built this party from coast to coast. I think they mean something.

I am very proud that we have the ability to go back and talk to our people, whether we're going to continue a position we now have or whether we want to make a major change in that position. It's something that feeds back to the rank-and-file people who do come out and do the work in our campaigns as well.

"And whereas the government has said that it is committed to creating jobs to lead us out of the current recession and it is acknowledged that more open Sunday shopping would stimulate jobs in the retail sector": Once again, show me the evidence. Show me the proof. There are only so many dollars people have out there. Whether you spend them in six days or in seven days, it's going to be the same number. Who are going to be the beneficiaries?

"And whereas the Employment Standards Act provides considerable protection for workers who do not wish to work on Sundays": I want to tell you—and I'll deal with that a little more in a moment—that is a concern. It's a real concern simply because it's much more difficult to deal with part-time workers than with full-time workers.

"Therefore this Legislature calls upon the NDP government to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act immediately and introduce new legislation which would allow municipalities to decide..."

1710

That's where it became obvious to me that this Liberal Party has not learned a darn thing since it suffered defeat in the last election. They really were thrown out. They were thrown out because of their own errors. They're coming back with exactly the same kind of position they took at that particular point in time. That says to me that we may have difficulty making up our minds on some of the things we want to do, and they haven't learned a darn thing since they were thrown out of office a year and a half ago.

Another thing which we have to take a look at and is a serious concern—I mentioned it earlier—is the protection of workers who do not wish to work on Sunday. In our current bill we give workers the absolute right to refuse. With Sunday shopping we will have many more part-time workers than full-time workers. I'll almost guarantee you that full-time workers in many of the chains or bigger stores will not get Sunday work because of the time-and-a-half or double-time provisions. It'll be the part-time workers, as has already happened in much of our retail industry—more and more people are working and being hired as part-time workers.

What will happen if these part-time workers are not cooperative and say, "We don't necessarily want to work on Sunday"? What will happen is what was happening during the last period when there was some opening as a result of this Liberal Party when it was in office. What happened? The workers at Sears, some of the stores in the centre and some of the malls in my riding, called me, saying: "Hey, we were part-timers. We would work 24, 20 or 16 hours." They were restricted time frames. The minute they said they weren't willing to work on one of the holidays or on Sunday, nobody gave them heck. All of a sudden that 24 hours was down to 20 or 16, and that 16 hours was down to 10 or 12 hours. You try and prove that, and if you don't think that's going to be a major problem you're kidding yourselves. So there is a problem in terms of dealing with workers and the kind of protection we can offer.

How do we also deal with the smaller operators in the shopping malls, those who do not want to open? Do we think the mall owners and big developers will not dictate their rents and the conditions under which they work? I want to tell you that, other than the retail food end of it, about 4% of workers in these stores are organized, so there's no protection for the workers. There's also no protection for the smaller operators because you can bet your bottom dollar the agreements in many of these malls will require them to open if the big operators are going to open in those malls.

What kind of protection do we have in place? Is it not worth taking a look to see whether we can do something to see that those who don't want to open or operate are able to stay closed, or are they just going to have to try and compete? Does anyone think Sunday shopping will produce more dollars other than perhaps in the border communities? I'm willing to admit there's at least an argument that can be made there. Reality will be the same number of dollars over an extra day's shopping, as I mentioned earlier.

Whom will this benefit? I'll tell you very clearly that it will benefit the chains. It will benefit the big operators, it will benefit the mall owners and developers, and I suspect it will be a real benefit to many of the major newspapers because they live on advertising dollars and this is one of the things they'll spend the money on.

I think the argument we have to look at on the other side of it—because the big operators will want the openings. It's very likely to be a no-win situation for the small operators, the workers themselves and many of the mom-and-pop operations. Where is most of the pressure coming from that we're facing? It's not coming from these people;

it's not coming from the small merchants and the small operators; it's not coming from the workers; it's coming from the big operators that tend to benefit. It's a campaign that's being driven by fear of our current economic situation.

I don't think the motion that's here necessarily offers any solution to the problem I've tried to outline; however, there is one argument we have to take a look at. The toughest argument is probably the extent to which public opinion may be changing. Anybody who doesn't take a look at that is crazy also and I recognize that, but we have to listen and we have to understand whether or not we can put in place provisions that will protect workers and their rights, whether or not we can put in place provisions that say small operators don't have to open up if they happen to be mall tenants, that they can still keep their businesses closed if they desire to and not move on this issue.

This is why we're doing the discussing we are and looking at it as seriously as we are in the context of being stampeded into some position by one of the opposition parties that hasn't learned a thing from its defeat in the last election.

There are a couple of other things that are worth mentioning. When we take a look at this, maybe we should take a look at what's happening in some other parts of the world too. I think a little study of some of the European Community countries would help. It's not the same in all of them but there is no wide-open shopping in Germany, I can tell you, and there is much more restricted protection for workers and you don't see the move in that direction. It applies in other areas as well.

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** In the time allotted for me to speak on this resolution, let me first indicate my support for the resolution and for the wording contained within.

It's strange, as I've listened to the debate this afternoon, that the Conservatives speak of principle and that all of their members have different opinions. The New Democrats' principles seem to be embraced in casino gambling, in what they said before and what they say now, and on public auto insurance, what they said before and what they say now, and indeed on a common pause day, what they said before and what they say now.

All of the government members criticize the wording of this particular resolution only because it happens to state the position we held prior to the election and which we continue to hold, the same position on the basis of the same principles. It's something which is very curious indeed: that now one gets criticized by members of the government side because they have the audacity to hold the same position they've held out to the people of this province for many, many years. That's something I find passing strange.

I listened closely to what the Minister of Labour was saying. It's quite interesting how he, in one broad stroke of the brush, spoke of the big developers and the big business owners and the big profit-makers in this province. They also happen to be the big job creators in this province. What happened to this new era of consultation and cooperation which the government members, when the time seems to fit them, speak so eloquently about? The Minister of Labour has really just put aside all of that with his five or six minutes on this one particular issue. He's

spoken of those individuals who work so hard in this province, who provide so much to this province, as people who are somehow improper in that they are contributing to the economy of the province, that they are contributing to jobs in this province, that they are providing jobs when jobs are such a scarce commodity.

I'm glad the Minister of Labour is here. Is this not the same person who was seen shopping in a mall on a Sunday in Hamilton-Wentworth just last year? Is this the same person who has spoken about how so terrible this particular area is, how so difficult it is? It is clear that the province and so many people within this province are saying, "What is the position of this government?"

1720

We have a piece of legislation that they've brought forward which is mired in regulation and legislation. It isn't a bill, it's a noose, and it's really strangling communities from doing what they feel is best for themselves economically to deal with the realities and the demands of the day. This is what this resolution of our leader is meant to bring forward, that municipalities should be allowed to make the decisions which they believe are best for their own economy and for the people they look after.

How in the world can a government take a position where in fact it seems to be against municipalities being able, in a free and unfettered way, to deal with the realities of their own community? I don't know why, but of course we are left with that question of the government, and people are asking the government, "Where do you stand on this issue?"

We have legislation before us, but we have messages, press releases and interviews with the press that just seem to fly in the face of what was said the day before, and that is becoming consistent for this government. The inconsistency of its message is the only thing that seems to be consistent. It depends on the day upon which the question is asked that one gets the position, and people are saying: "Where does the government stand? Must we wait always for the provincial NDP council to make a decision before we can see what direction the government is taking, and if we must do that, why do we have to do that? We didn't elect them. They are not accountable to us. We haven't ever spoken to them and in fact we don't want to."

We believe there is an accountability process that has to be adhered to and for a government to say, "We throw up our hands on this issue, we make no decisions until we take it our NDP provincial council," is something which many people, no matter where they stand on this issue, are finding very detestable. They find they just can't swallow the fact, no matter where they stand on this issue. They can't believe any government would throw an issue which affects so many people to its own political association, people who are not accountable to the communities, to the municipalities and to the many people who have felt the ravages of the recession.

We know that right now under the Employment Standards Act there is sufficient protection for workers. The words spoken by the Minister of Labour do not fall within and are not brought forward in the Employment Standards

Act. The Employment Standards Act does provide protection for workers.

What this resolution says is: "Let communities decide what is best for themselves economically. Let them make the decision as to what is best for their people, for their residents, keeping in mind the particularities and the uniqueness of each community in this province." That's what this resolution says.

The NDP government says: "We don't know. We have to make certain. We have to listen to our provincial NDP council." That is just not good enough in this province. It is just not good enough for the many people who are out of work. It's just not good enough for the many businesses that are trying to create jobs in this province. It's just not good enough for a government to act that way.

I stand in full support of a very carefully worded resolution which gives to municipalities the ability to do what they can do, and that is to make certain that their community is able to meet the demands of the economy that is unique to them.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I thank the member for Mississauga North for his contribution to the debate and recognize the member for Mississauga South.

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** As I rise to speak to the opposition day motion by the leader of the official opposition, I must say at the outset that this seems to be an annual event that we get an opportunity to stand in this House and discuss Sunday shopping. It's unfortunate, though, that some members in the House, when they discuss this subject, don't discuss the real issue of the subject, which is Sunday working.

I think, first of all, I must comment on the Minister of Labour's very revealing statements a few moments ago in this House, because we now know that at least when this government brings in its new legislation, which will permit Sunday working, that the Minister of Labour will have to resign, and it certainly will be one easy way of eliminating one more member of the cabinet.

One of the advantages I think I have with my seven years' tenure now in this House—it all went past on May 2 without any special recognition or celebration in this House, so I have to record that now for posterity—but one of the advantages about having just celebrated my seventh anniversary as a member is that I've been here long enough to remember what various members said when they sat in different locations in this House.

In particular, it's very interesting to hear the NDP members who are now serving in the government benches who shared some of the same concerns that I had when they were in the opposition benches. It's not only on this subject; it's actually on many subjects. I think if there's one thing this opposition day motion of the Liberal Party this afternoon demonstrates, it really just goes to reconfirm once more that with the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party in Ontario, there is a distinct lack of leadership. I think what's going to become very real very soon for the people in this province is that they're going to be able to see whether anyone in the government benches is

made of that stuff of which they proclaimed they were made when they were campaigning.

When we look at the example in our own caucus, I do want to recognize that the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party is in fact the only real leader in this Legislature. He is the only leader who will give to each and every member of his caucus the right to a free vote on this subject. He is the only leader who will give the option to each one of us in this caucus to represent our constituencies. I admire my leader, Mike Harris, for the fact that he is willing to do that. That has not been the tradition of most leaders in this Legislature in the past. I challenge the Premier of Ontario, Bob Rae, to give the same option of a free vote to all the members of his caucus that Mike Harris is giving to us as members of our caucus. Because of that, I am able to stand in this House today and speak in opposition to this motion, but also in opposition to the concept of Sunday working.

I think it's unfortunate that the Liberal motion, which supposedly has been very well researched and written, has so many blatant errors in it. I refer especially to the second paragraph, wherein it says, "And whereas municipalities across the province have demanded that they be given the freedom to decide whether or not to open their stores on Sundays." I cannot begin to understand how the Liberal opposition, which was the Liberal government in this province for five years until September 1990, could have made this gross error in this resolution. There is on record a resolution of AMO, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, which says the absolute opposite to this. The municipalities in Ontario do not want the freedom to make the decisions. They do not want the local option. They want the provincial government to make the decision. They want the provincial government to have the jurisdiction over the subject of Sunday working.

This motion also says, "And whereas in border communities, faced with a growing epidemic of cross-border shopping, the matter of Sunday shopping is of particular urgency." This has to be the most ludicrous statement of all. The fact is, everyone knows that people are shopping in the United States because of price. People are not shopping in the United States because the stores are open on Sundays. People cross-border shop every day of the week, and they do that by choice, because of price. I don't think we can deal with the issue of how we can correct the price differential in this debate today, but we might as well recognize that the issue of cross-border shopping is not a Sunday issue.

1730

Also in this illustrious opposition day motion by the Liberal Party there is another statement that says, "And whereas 67% of Ontarians have expressed their support for more open Sunday shopping." Now, where is it written, where does it say 67% of Ontarians want their friends, family, relatives and coworkers to work on Sunday? I challenge the Liberal Party to provide documentation other than perhaps a poll of—what is it? A poll is usually 1,000 people or 1,100 people.

For a party that for years has criticized other parties that ruled and made policies and developed legislation

based on polls, I find particularly interesting this statement made by this particular party, the former Liberal government of this province, that 67% of Ontarians want people to work on Sunday. You can't make a blanket statement like that. You should perhaps say that a poll of 1,100, 1,000 or 999 people has revealed that 67% of people in Ontario want to work on Sundays.

One of the things I have found in discussing this subject, not only in my own riding but across this province, is that when you say to people, "Would you shop every Sunday if stores were open?" the answer always is: "No, I wouldn't shop every Sunday but it would be nice some Sundays if the stores were open. If I had the time and had all my other chores done, maybe I could go shopping on Sunday, if they were open." So for the convenience of that individual being able to shop occasionally on a Sunday, somebody else has to work every Sunday.

That brings me to another part of this motion. By the way, I must say that with all the crises facing Ontario today, isn't it significant that this was the best opposition day subject the Liberal Party could come up with? Isn't there a tremendous irony that they've put themselves back in the mess with this motion that they had themselves in when they were the government for five years? Obviously they're no better at managing the business of this province from an opposition purview than they were when they were the government.

The other section that really concerns me, and I know there are many members of the government who share this concern with me, is where it says: "And whereas the Employment Standards Act provides considerable protection for workers who do not wish to work on Sundays." Mr Speaker, I just want to tell you what those amendments to the Employment Standards Act actually say. They say that retail workers, both full- and part-time, will have the absolute right to refuse Sunday and holiday work. A worker who has agreed to work on a Sunday and wishes not to do so can refuse with 48 hours' notice, and employees will be entitled to 36 continuous hours of rest in every seven days whether they work on Sundays or not.

The really interesting part here is that if anybody is so naïve as to think for a moment that if he refuses to work, if he's employed in the retail industry and his employer operates the business seven days a week, if he thinks for a moment that by refusing to work on Sunday he will have the same opportunities for promotion that the cooperative worker who will be willing to work on Sundays will have, then I think the leader, Lyn McLeod, and her Liberal cohorts are more out to lunch than we had anticipated they were.

I think it's very important when we talk about Sunday working that we as people in this Legislature look very seriously at the responsibility we have. Yes, I concede that things change from time to time, but do we like some of the changes we see? Do we like the style of life we see evolving in our province? I ask you, Mr Speaker. I personally am concerned about some of the lifestyle changes that are taking place in this province. I am concerned about family values. I am concerned about the rights of individuals to work or not to work six or seven days a week, regardless of what day of the week it is.

I happen to believe very strongly that at this point in time I represent my constituents in the majority, who wish to have a common pause day. It's very interesting that the former Premier of this province, David Peterson, every single day of his campaign in the summer of 1990 campaigned on a common pause day, as did Premier Bob Rae. He campaigned every single day promising the people of Ontario a common pause day.

I simply say, what does this mean? Is a common pause day for everyone, or is it selectively for those who are not employed in an industry where their boss will say to them, "I'm sorry, I'm open on Sunday, so you're working Sunday"?

I believe in a common pause day for a number of reasons my constituents have conveyed to me, which happen to coincide with my own personal wish and my own personal vision for the future of this province, and it isn't where we are open with all our business and industry and commerce seven days a week, where we do not have one single day set aside where people do not have to go to work.

**The Speaker:** I thank the member for Mississauga South for her contribution to the debate and recognize the member for Mississauga West.

**Mr Mahoney:** I first of all found it rather interesting that the Minister of Labour consumed all the time of the government while the member for Welland-Thorold was sitting there anxiously champing at the bit waiting to get his position forward. I also find it's not really necessary for the member for Welland-Thorold to put his position forward, because the member for Mississauga South just did. Isn't there some irony that the somewhat right-wing member for Mississauga South, I say with due respect, would be sharing the same position as the somewhat left-wing member for Welland-Thorold? They believe in a common pause day. Is that what you call full circle? They don't meet in the middle, I can tell you that. Rather strange bedfellows come out of this crazy business.

The member for Mississauga South also made a comment I made a note of. She said: "What is a common pause day for? Is it for everyone?" I stand to be corrected in Hansard, but I believe that's a direct quote. Her question was, "Is it for everyone, or is it just for some people, because we have seven-day commerce?"

Then I put that together with the speech of the Minister of Labour, who stands up and defends the rights of workers not to work on Sunday. Then I put that together with the member for Sault Ste Marie, who stands up and says that his folks have voted for wide-open Sunday shopping in Sault Ste Marie and would like it. Then you put that together with the people who work in the steel industry, with the people who work in the automobile industry, with the people who work in health care, with the people who work in the police, with the people who work in fire and all municipal sectors, in sports. When you go to see the Blue Jays, somebody's got to work. Somebody's got to open or close the Dome.

So the question should be asked: If you have a common pause day, who is it for? According to the member for Welland-Thorold or Mississauga South or many other members

of the government, a common pause day is clearly for people in the retail sector. It's not for anybody else.

1740

**Mr Mancini:** Some retail.

**Mr Mahoney:** Some retail. Gas stations are open on Sunday. That's retail. Corner stores, drugstores, the list goes on. This is really a consistent policy. Maybe we should define a common pause day. At least the active member for Welland-Thorold is consistent with his party's former policy, I grant you that.

It's interesting to me that we sit here today and hear members from both the Conservative Party and the NDP criticizing the Liberals for actually supporting a resolution consistent with our position when we were in government. Can you imagine that? What an outrageous thing that we'd actually be consistent.

Yet they have the unmitigated gall to say we want to go backwards. We'd love to go back to the days when we were in government, but let me tell you, we're not going backwards when we support the existing position.

The member for Mississauga South in her speech said, "Would somebody show me where there's any kind of poll that indicates support?" Mr Martin, the member for Sault Ste Marie, would tell you there was a vote held in that community, in my home town, and the vote clearly said the people wanted Sunday shopping. I don't know how much more clear—that wasn't 1,100 people in a telephone poll on a weekend, that was a vote that clearly said.

I have a letter from the mayor of Wallaceburg addressed to the Premier, dated May 13, expressing concern that the Ontario Municipal Board under this current legislation dismissed an application by the town of Wallaceburg to have wide-open Sunday shopping, to have a bylaw approved. They dismissed it because of a court challenge.

Here in his first point, he says to the Premier, "Democratically held election—our citizens voted in the last municipal election 62.5% in favour of Sunday shopping." I say to the member for Mississauga South, that's not 67% but it clearly is a majority of the community in Wallaceburg.

I think you can conduct those kinds of plebiscites, votes, information gathering, whatever you want to call it, right across this province and you would come up with similar reactions, because people understand what an incredible waste of time this is on behalf of the taxpayers when we should be coming up with ways to create jobs and economic growth.

We hear that this is not a Sunday shopping issue, it's a Sunday working issue. For shame, that someone would actually have an opportunity to work on a Sunday who's currently not working: perhaps a student who just has to live with your budget's decision to eliminate \$10 million in OSAP grants. Maybe that student doesn't want to work, but maybe that student has to work. Maybe that student without that job, without that opportunity to work on a weekend, will not be able to stay in school because you people have pulled the rug out from under him.

Let me compare the different pieces of legislation. The Lord's Day Act under the Conservatives clearly said that no one shall shop in the province on Sunday unless they

have an exemption. How did you get that exemption? You went to your municipal council and asked for the exemption. There were no guidelines. You simply were given it if they decided you were a tourist attraction.

In my own community in the region of Peel, we designated the Malton fruit market as a tourist attraction and the Port Credit Business Improvement Area as a tourist attraction. On July 18, the year we opened our new civic centre, we actually opened the entire city of Mississauga by designating it as a tourist attraction and clearly it is a tourist attraction. It's a wonderful place and I invite you all to come for the weekend. But let me tell you that we had that authority.

Under the Liberal government's new law, which is clearly reflected in my leader's resolution today, it said no one shall shop on Sunday unless you have an exemption. How did you get an exemption? You went to your council and asked for one. The only difference between the Lord's Day Act and our legislation when we were in government was that you didn't have to come up with some cockamammy definition of what a tourist attraction was. You didn't have the situation where somebody could come before council and say the Malton fruit market is not a tourist attraction, and they have to come and fight and say that it is. We clearly gave the choice to the local community.

This government has put in all kinds of criteria to try to define what a tourist attraction is, to the extent that something like the Eaton Centre in Toronto would not qualify. Then they've allowed for an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board. We all know that every application will go to the board. It will waste hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars and time. Frankly, my preferred position, on a personal basis, would be to get out of the business of regulating Sunday shopping, but at least the consistent position of my leader would allow this government to find a compromise position, delete the reference to the Ontario Municipal Board and allow the municipalities in this province to decide whether or not they wish to open up for Sunday shopping.

**The Speaker:** I thank the member for Mississauga West for his contribution to the debate and recognize the member for Markham.

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** This is not another one of those days where I can agree with either party. I don't know when that day is going to come. I think we're just going to have to get rid of a few more New Democrats and a few more Liberals and allow us to understand that there is still another way of governing this province.

I agree with one thing in the Liberal statement today. There's "a crisis of uncertainty in the retail industry." Yes, there is. Not just because of Sunday shopping, but because of the labour legislation, the taxes and the stupidity of the Bob Rae government. Everybody in this province is fed up with you guys and you're only halfway through your term of office. To that extent I agree with the Liberals that there is a high degree of uncertainty around what these people are going to do. No one knows what they're going to do next. I mean, it's Looney Tunes time in Ontario. Every time they have a cabinet meeting they're coming up with another way of changing things and setting back the clock.

I don't want to be like Sweden was in the 1960s. I want to be a progressive, dynamic, growing place instead of a spot that has a recession that could soon be spelled with a "d" in front of it. Anyway, I agree with that part of the Liberal motion.

There are other parts of the Liberal motion. They talk, first of all, to make this the big issue, Sunday shopping. Well, I'll tell you, ladies and gentlemen of the House and in the province of Ontario, there are many other issues facing this province that have a far greater urgent nature to them than Sunday shopping. It's time we started dealing with those issues rather than one the Liberals have already proved they couldn't handle themselves. They've proved that. They went and had a chance to bring in a Sunday law and they're coming back with the same kind of thinking without having learned their lesson after being kicked out of office on September 6.

The second thing in their little motion is that they talk about "severe economic constraints." Many of the severe economic constraints we are suffering in this province were inaugurated by David Peterson and the Liberals. Don't forget it. The Liberals brought in the commercial concentration tax that sent tourists away. The Liberals brought in more gas and fuel taxes that turned off the tourist trade. The Liberals are the ones who brought in the immoral taxes, some 33 of them, in their time in office. They've forgotten it. They say there are severe economic constraints. They started the ball rolling. You guys don't know how to stop it. You're both sick.

For them to stand up in this House and say, "We've got serious economic consequences"—they began it. We were in a time of prosperity and look what they did with it. They just had a great way of spending the money with great abandon. Then they come along and, in one sentence here, talk about the "considerable protection for workers." Come on. We've got to have more than considerable protection for workers. There has to be a sense there that if someone does not want to work on this day and wants the time off, there is true protection for them, not just considerable. Come on. Let's start putting our thoughts together. The member for Mississauga West just didn't make any sense at all when he talked about students being able to work on Sundays if we have this Sunday legislation. They have to work with supervision anyway.

This Legislature has important things to deal with. This is one of the things we should be able to deal with in an afternoon. We shouldn't be spending another day on this. I think we should be able to get our heads together, come up with a solution and get this out of the way so we can get on with the real issues of Canada and Ontario.

**The Speaker:** I thank the member for Markham for his contribution to the debate and recognize the Leader of the Opposition. She has five minutes to wrap up.

1750

**Mrs McLeod:** I appreciate the opportunity to close what I think has been an important debate, although, as I said in introducing the resolution, a debate that I wish had not been needed had we been responding to the realities of today.

I would like to take these few moments at the end of the debate to recognize why we felt it was important to bring this resolution forward, in that it touches on a subject that is pervasive and should be of tremendous concern to us all. That is the fact that the economic situation this province faces is as critical a situation as we have ever faced in our history. I would just like to take a moment to share some of that reality once again.

From January to April of this year alone, 52 plants have closed their doors completely, six have closed in part, 32 have reduced operations and 12,000 people lost their jobs through those closures, and those are just the plants that have more than 50 people. That doesn't begin to touch the number of people who have lost their jobs by the twos or the 10s or the 20s as the smaller retail operations across this province in virtually every community have been forced to close their doors. The total job loss in April alone in this province was 17,000. Over the past year, from April to April, the total is 75,000 jobs. This is not an abstract issue. These are real people who have lost their jobs and they are real people paying a real price for the economic situation we face.

We add to that the reality of the students who are now looking for summer jobs which they're just not going to find. The 18% unemployment rate for youth is higher than at any time, even since the recession of 1982.

In the meantime, as the welfare costs rise with the unemployment increases we see a government caught in an escalating spiral of rising costs, declining revenues and totally unacceptably mounting debt.

We ask, what can the government do to respond in these critical times? We believe it can respond by understanding today's realities. It can provide the leadership appropriate to the times, as the leader of the third party has said. In our view, the option of Sunday shopping is indeed an appropriate response for the times.

**Mr Bernard Grandmaitre (Ottawa East):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'm trying to listen to my leader and I can barely hear her. Could we have a little quiet?

**The Speaker:** There are quite a number of private conversations. It would be very helpful if those conversations could be held elsewhere so that the Leader of the Opposition would have an opportunity to address the assembly.

**Mrs McLeod:** It has been said today and continues to be said in conversations around the House that the municipal option has been tried and hasn't worked. I think that analysis quite frankly fails to recognize the wisdom of people in communities and the readiness and willingness of people in communities to express their needs and concerns very clearly. I believe there is such a thing as a community value, and in a very real and legitimate sense the values of one community may not be the values of another community. But realities change and the nature of community life can change to reflect those new realities.

The municipalities of Windsor, Sarnia, Wallaceburg and Fort Frances have not met opposition from their communities in presenting Sunday shopping bylaws. They have in fact acted with the strong support of their communities, which is how municipal councillors should be act-

ing. But they've been impeded in responding to the wishes of their communities by unworkable and unmanageable legislation introduced by this government which allows the decision of a municipality to be appealed by a single individual who need not even be a resident in that community.

Why would we not want to see that this continuing and often difficult issue of public policy is resolved through real consensus, built community by community across this province? Then Sunday shopping could become a reality with an unusual degree of public support.

Having expressed my personal belief that there is merit in this particular approach, the essence of this resolution is that this government withdraw what is clearly unworkable, unenforceable legislation that is impeding the will of municipalities. This government can understand that Sunday shopping can help desperate retail sector individuals stay in business. If they talk to retailers across this province, they will know they need whatever help they can have and that many feel the time has now come to choose Sunday shopping. They can understand that people who aren't working, the unemployed and students looking for summer jobs, need job opportunities and that Sunday shopping will maintain existing jobs. People want to work. Give them the opportunity. To say you're not convinced that this will create jobs is to put your heads in the sand like ostriches and fail to hear the realities that are crying out around you.

**The Speaker:** The Leader of the Opposition moves opposition day motion 4. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

1802

The House divided on Mrs McLeod's motion, which was negatived on the following vote:

**Ayes—29**

Callahan, Caplan, Chiarelli, Cleary, Conway, Curling, Daigeler, Eddy, Fawcett, Grandmaitre, Kwinter, Mahoney, Mancini, McGuinty, McLean, McLeod, Miclash, Morin, Offer, O'Neil (Quinte), O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poirier, Poole, Ramsay, Ruprecht, Stockwell, Sullivan, Villeneuve.

**Nays—72**

Akande, Allen, Arnott, Bisson, Boyd, Buchanan, Carr, Carter, Charlton, Churley, Cooper, Coppen, Cousens, Cunningham, Dadamo, Duignan, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Jackson, Jamison, Johnson, Jordan, Klopp, Kormos, Laughren, Lessard, Mackenzie, MacKinnon, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Marland, Martel, Martin, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury);

North, O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Philip (Etobicoke-Rexdale), Pilkey, Pouliot, Silipo, Sterling, Sutherland, Tilson, Ward (Brantford), Ward (Don Mills), Wark-Martyn, Waters, Wessinger, White, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman, Witmer, Wood, Ziemba.

The House adjourned at 1806.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OSJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessinger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

**COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
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No. 26

Nº 26

ISSN 1180-2987

## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

## Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Wednesday 27 May 1992

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

## Journal des débats (Hansard)

Mercredi 27 mai 1992

Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 27 May 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDS

**Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland):** Last Wednesday, May 20, I had the privilege of attending a special awards ceremony given by Chief Boughen and the Port Hope Fire Department in honour of five heroes who, with no thought of self-danger, instinctively reacted to save a family from a raging house fire.

Of particular note were the courageous actions of a 13-year-old family member, Sarah Johnson. When she heard her mother's warnings and saw the danger, she ran down the second-floor hallway and led her seven-year-old sister Shauna and her four-year-old brother Austin to her bedroom. She then helped them out of her bedroom window on to the rear porch roof, away from the direction of the billowing clouds of thick smoke, and ordered them to lie down on the roof.

Her loud screams attracted a neighbour, Peter Schoon, who grabbed a ladder and went to the children's aid. By this time the house was engulfed in smoke and flames. Peter then lowered the children to another neighbour, Mel Perrie, who together with Starr Rath and Roy Burgess made sure the children were ministered to and looked after.

The fact that this remarkable young girl, Sarah Johnson, was able to remember and put into practice the lessons the members of the fire department had taught when they visited the area school is very significant. As well, Chief Boughen and his crew did a superb job in containing and extinguishing the blaze which prevented further damage to the surrounding homes.

Everyone involved in this emergency life-threatening situation is to be commended for their calm and courageous actions in what might have been a devastating tragedy of lost lives. I am sure all members would want to join with me in applauding these local Port Hope heroes and heroines.

### LABATT'S ONTARIO BREWERIES

**Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North):** On May 14, Labatt Brewing announced that due to economic factors it would be closing its Waterloo plant and that about 200 jobs would be lost. I want to indicate my concern about yet another plant closing in my community and to express my profound admiration for the employees who tried so hard to make their plant work. The Labatt's brewery on King Street in Waterloo has roots extending back to 1844, when the Kuntz brewery was founded. This brewery was not only an integral part of our local economy, but also an important part of Kitchener-Waterloo's heritage.

I would like to pay tribute at this time to the efforts of the workers at the brewery, who have been described as the best Labatt's workforce in Canada. During the past few

years they have tried hard to increase their plant's productivity and have been leaders in innovative work practices and efficiency. They responded to the challenge of keeping their plant economically viable with commendable dedication. The truly tragic aspect of this situation is that these efforts were ultimately futile.

However, I say to the workers from all of us in Waterloo North, appreciation and sincere thanks for a job well done.

### HERITAGE WEEK

**Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East):** Today I want to draw attention to the Heritage Week festivities taking place in my riding of Durham East and in particular in the town of Bowmanville. The week-long events are so many that my 90-second time allotment prevents me from mentioning them all.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the historical walking tour of the town of Bowmanville this Friday at 1:30 pm. For children there is the teddy bear clinic, where they can bring their teddy bears for a checkup at Orono town hall on Saturday at 10 am. Also on Saturday at Bowmanville Lions Club there is a Christian prayer breakfast hosted by the town of Newcastle. Come and listen to hockey great Paul Henderson.

On Sunday perhaps the highlight of the week is the environmental fair which is being conducted in the Bowmanville arena. The price is right. It doesn't cost anything, the babysitting is free and it proposes to be just a super, wonderful day for all the environment lovers.

Come to Bowmanville this week and share our enjoyment with us.

### SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

**Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora):** Mr Speaker, the beautiful little community in my riding which you had the pleasure of visiting this past spring is facing a possible disaster. The condition of the Sioux Lookout sewage treatment plant is critical. Not only is it operating at capacity; it has deteriorated to such a degree that it could experience a major breakdown at any time without warning. If this happens, raw untreated sewage will be released into Pelican Lake, the source of the town's drinking water.

The potential health and environmental hazards are unthinkable, yet another application for funding to construct a new sewage treatment plant sent in to the Ministry of the Environment has received little attention. The town has made this project priority one for its community. Measures have been brought in to conserve water and for the past year the town has been forced to put a freeze on any development.

The town of Sioux Lookout has much potential. It serves as a resource and service centre for many of the northern native communities. With the move towards native self-government, Sioux Lookout's position as a centre will increase. Unfortunately, its economic and social development

are being hindered by the limited capacity of its present plant.

I, along with the people of Sioux Lookout and the communities it services, am asking the Minister of the Environment to make this funding request a priority with her ministry.

#### KIN CLUBS

**Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey):** For the past few days I've had the honour of touring my riding, attending ceremonies sponsored by my local Kinsman and Kinette clubs.

Most members will think of the Kinsman organization as being a service club devoted to community betterment. They think of the valuable contribution made by these groups to cystic fibrosis and the assistance they have given to research and to aiding sufferers of the disease. They will also think of their new work with Operation Go Home, to assist runaway youngsters, and Operation Shining Light, which helps victims of child abuse.

But this week Kinsman and Kinette clubs across Ontario had another worthy cause to promote—national unity. At a time when emotions are high, they have seized the opportunity to celebrate Canada's 125th birthday by bringing whole communities together, young and old alike, to pledge their love and support for our country.

The clubs started one Canadian flag travelling west from British Columbia and another one coming east from Newfoundland. They are being raised in cities and towns along the way until they meet at the Terry Fox memorial in Thunder Bay.

Grey was fortunate enough to have clubs in Durham, Flesherton, Feversham, Hanover, Owen Sound, Meaford and Thornbury participating. As well, each club provided a second flag with a huge border on which thousands were able to sign their names. This initiative heightened the awareness of the thread which holds us together and engendered the resolve to strengthen it.

I applaud the efforts of everyone involved. I especially thank Kinsmen Dave Hurst and Rusty Reidt of Hanover and Tom Bumstead of Meaford for their dedication and their commitment to Canada.

1340

#### CHILD WITNESS PROGRAM

**Mr David Winninger (London South):** I rise in the House today to recognize the important work of the London Family Court Clinic child witness program in helping child victims and witnesses understand the criminal justice system and their role as witnesses.

Last Monday in London, where my riding is located, I was pleased to announce on behalf of the Attorney General \$280,000 in continued funding to be shared equally between the London and Toronto programs. Crimes against children too often have not been acted on by the criminal justice system because a child just doesn't understand the court process. Too often, a child who has suffered abuse undergoes the further ordeal of fear, stress and confusion in the courtroom.

Now, at 12 sites across the province such as London, we are the sole funding provider. Federal funding has dried

up, but the New Democratic government of Ontario is following through on its budget commitment to maintain important programs and services. We will ensure that through support from the child witness program, children are not further victimized by a system that is set up to protect them.

There is also a wider benefit. Young, impressionable individuals are being shown caring and concern are at the heart of our justice system and that access to and respect for the laws are for everyone. I commend the work of Peter Jaffe, Louise Sas and other members of the project team of London Family Court Clinic child witness program. May their influence be as strong as their efforts.

#### HIGHWAY BILLBOARDS

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** I have received from several of my constituents and several people who are not constituents letters of concern directed towards the new Ministry of Transportation policy about non-commercial signs along the highways of our province.

Although I have disagreement with some people who advertise on some of the billboards we see placed on our highways, I none the less respect the right of people to express through the posting of signs along our major highways their points of view, whatever the subject matter.

I have written to the Minister of Transportation and he kindly wrote me a letter in reply, which says basically that there has been no change in the policy, merely a demonstration of more precision in the way they enforce their "field sign regulation." The minister has changed the regulation to eliminate a reference in the regulation to the word "service." That then requires only the field staff to allow the placement of business or commercial signs along our major thoroughfares.

I believe this is a real incursion against freedom of speech. It represents a problem with respect to the way we are able to practise our religions in this province and the minister should own up to that.

I might add that some of the people who wrote to me also wrote to Mr Klopp, the member for Huron. Through a phone call, Mr Klopp has conveyed to at least one minister in the riding of Huron that "the government might be open to some changes." At this particular time I want the Minister of Transportation to tell us what the government is open to changing with respect to non-commercial signs.

#### NATIVE HUNTING AND FISHING

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** My statement is for the minister with dual responsibilities for native affairs and natural resources. Natives and non-natives alike are outraged by the lack of information and mixed signals your ministries are sending and providing to the people of Ontario with respect to your interim enforcement policy on aboriginal rights to hunt and fish for food.

Minister, you have an obligation to clear the air over this matter. People want you to explain exactly what controls you have put in place to ensure appropriate conservation of crown land and that such natural resources as forests, fish, wildlife and minerals are protected. You have an obligation to explain why you have directed your conservation

officers not to lay charges against native Ontarians when they are clearly abusing your interim enforcement policy by using nets and spears to harvest spawning fish in a manner that puts conservation at risk.

Minister, surely you must know you're creating friction between groups of people by keeping your interim enforcement policy wrapped in a veil of secrecy. The time is long overdue for you to truthfully and completely tell the people of Ontario just what your interim enforcement policy really means and what percentage of forests, fish, wildlife and mineral resources you are prepared to turn over to native control.

Minister, you have an obligation to put an end to the anti-native backlash and the abuse of our natural resources you have created with your interim enforcement policy.

#### EAST YORK DAY

**Mr Gary Malkowski (York East):** On Sunday, May 24, 1992, the mayor's committee on multicultural and race relations in the borough of East York held its 15th annual East York Day festival. I wish to share with the House how much I enjoyed participating in this event, which was held at the East York Collegiate Institute.

The East York Day activities provided a rich atmosphere through the display of different cultural and heritage traditions representing many different countries. These activities served as a forum for promoting and developing healthy race and ethnic relations and respect among people of diverse backgrounds.

The Honourable Henry N.R. Jackman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and his worship Mayor David Johnson, mayor of East York, officially opened the festival.

Members of the House may wish to commend Mr Shamsh Kara, chairperson of the East York Day committee, who is sitting with us today, on providing excellent leadership in making East York Day a successful and enjoyable one.

The festival provided an opportunity for many racial and cultural groups from across my riding of York East to showcase their arts, handicrafts, entertainments and ethnic cuisine for the enjoyment of all those people who were able to participate.

#### MINISTERIAL RESPONSE

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Under rule 32(a) I would seek your guidance and assistance. On April 14 I asked a question to the Minister of Labour wherein it had come to our attention that the Ministry of Labour's Workers' Health and Safety Centre had sent almost its entire staff on a two-and-a-half-day retreat at the posh Queen's Landing Inn at Niagara-on-the-Lake. In response, the minister indicated that he would get back to me in terms of why the decision was made to hold the session in Niagara Falls.

That question was posed on April 14, and I recognize that the standing rules, under 32(a), do permit a minister to take an oral question as notice, to be answered at a later date. But I seek your guidance and assistance on this point: that I posed the question on April 14; it is now May 27,

and I have yet to receive a response from the Minister of Labour on what I feel was a very straightforward question.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** To the member for Mississauga North, I appreciate him drawing this matter to my attention, and indeed appreciate his natural interest in having a very speedy response. There is nothing in the standing orders nor our precedents that would prescribe a time limit for responses. However, the member has now raised it in the chamber again, and perhaps it will have the desired effect shortly.

**Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: We, as well as the Conservative Party, were notified that the Attorney General would be making a statement in the House today. We were provided with a copy of the statement, and we're certainly ready to respond. We're curious as to whether he will be here. I'm sure there would be unanimous consent for him to make his statement—

**The Speaker:** If the member would take his seat. I understand that a copy of the statement has been provided. We've been provided with everything except the Attorney General. Can the government House leader enlighten us?

**Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader):** No. I can see if I can find him.

**Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound):** Here he comes.

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** The Attorney General is here. May I rise on a point of order after we have our statements? Thank you.

1350

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

##### PARKING OFFENCES

**Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General):** Today I am pleased to introduce legislation which will make important changes to Ontario's system of processing parking tickets.

With an estimated 3 million to 4 million parking tickets issued each year, the system has had a surprisingly small proportion of glitches. However, there are some problems, such as wrongful convictions, which have been extremely annoying for thousands of motorists.

The legislation contains three key amendments which will greatly reduce the problems with wrongful convictions of motorists, and it will also make it easier for municipalities to take direct control of the collection of fines.

At present, administrative errors in parking offences can result in motorists being wrongfully convicted. This happens when the ticketing officer writes down the wrong licence number or when incorrect data are entered into the computer system. When a motorist is matched up with this incorrect data, the first time he hears about it is when he receives a notice of conviction. All MPPs, I'm sure, have had some complaints about this kind of problem. We are proposing, therefore, amendments which will give the motorist increased protection against wrongful conviction.

First, municipalities will be required to provide motorists with advance notice of an intent to seek a court conviction. In this way motorists can respond to any error that

has been made before a conviction is entered. As well, ticketing officers will have to include the month of renewal of the licence sticker, which is on the upper right-hand corner of the licence plate. This allows for a cross-check of information to verify ownership.

Second, we are simplifying the conviction process for parking offences by proposing that municipalities be allowed to certify that a ticket is indeed valid. They can then obtain a conviction through a court clerk rather than requiring a justice of the peace. We estimate that this process will significantly reduce the demand on the court's time. However, should the ticketing officer write an invalid ticket on which a conviction is entered and is overturned in court, the bill allows for a \$25 penalty in costs against the municipality. Again, this is to ensure more thorough protection for the motorist from wrongful conviction.

Another serious problem is that of unpaid parking fines. Currently, nearly half of the parking tickets issued in the province are simply ignored by the motorist. The municipality is forced to wait for a conviction from the court after an examination by a justice of the peace. With this streamlined process, municipalities can follow up on fine collection much more quickly, because fewer matters will be filed with the court and convictions can be obtained through a court clerk. And since municipalities will have the option of directly collecting outstanding fines, motorists can expect to hear much sooner about their unpaid parking tickets.

These amendments do not change the current process of plate denial or allowing motorists to prepay fines with a guilty plea or the opportunity to require a trial, but this bill does address the need to improve efficiency and eliminate the irritant of wrongful conviction. I trust my colleagues in the House will join me in supporting these changes.

## RESPONSES

### PARKING OFFENCES

**Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West):** We welcome this particular announcement, but again it's long overdue. In fact, had this particular provision been introduced in a proper manner, it would have saved a lot of hardship for the member for Cambridge, whose staff, because of this bureaucratic mixup, had to endure trying to fix traffic ticket charges and a lot of other inconveniences for this government and the public.

But the point is that this minister and this ministry should be properly named the Minister of Inertia, because virtually nothing is happening with this ministry. On the question of legal aid, there are people out there in the legal profession and the public who are waiting for some action and announcements from this minister, and again it is a question of inertia. There's no action taking place. There's a whole series of inactions on the part of this particular ministry.

**Mr Speaker,** I see you're looking at me with some consternation. I think the issue here is why it took so long to bring this in and why it's taking so long to introduce other matters.

One particular issue I want to bring to the attention of the Attorney General and the minister responsible for

women's issues is something the Attorney General should be addressing his attention to in a significant manner, and that's a very serious question in the ministry dealing with sexual harassment. We have in the last issue of the *Law Times* a front-page story of some significance to this Legislature and to the ministry. The headline says, "Court Administrator Claims Bosses Ignored Complaints About Judge Sex Harassment." I'm going to read a few quotes, because I think it's very instructive, and I'm demanding at this point that either the minister responsible for women's issues or the Attorney General conduct an inquiry into what has been going on in the Belleville courthouse. It's something that they have slipped under the carpet and they're trying to keep there. I'm going to refer—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order. Would the member take his seat for a moment. The response time is for responding to the statement made by the minister. This particular statement has to do with parking fines. If the member could direct his remarks to the statement, it would be helpful.

**Mr Chiarelli:** This time, as far as I'm concerned and from what I've observed in four and a half years, is available to make comments on the ministry, and that's done day in and day out. I'm addressing his issue as one of inaction on a number of fronts.

One inaction has been how long his ministry has taken on this parking matter. Another inaction is what has not happened in his ministry with respect to these sexual assault charges, which must be addressed by his ministry. The charges in this article are very severe. The facts are set out in a very responsible report. There is sexual harassment in the Ministry of the Attorney General which has not been dealt with, and the minister responsible for women's issues and the Ministry of the Attorney General are not addressing the issue. I'm taking this opportunity to ask the minister to conduct an inquiry.

**The Speaker:** I think it may be of some assistance to the member that we will shortly be having question period, and perhaps he has good subject material for questions during question period. Could you direct your remarks to the statement that was made?

**Mr Chiarelli:** I will, Mr Speaker. I mentioned that the member for Cambridge got into a lot of trouble because this particular law that was talked about today was not introduced earlier, and there are lot of other people getting in trouble because laws are introduced late, in an untimely manner and in an irresponsible manner. That's what I'm talking about here, Mr Speaker. It's directly related to the method by which this government introduces its initiatives. They are way overdue in addressing the sexual harassment charge in the courthouse in Belleville, and I'm asking publicly for an investigation.

**The Speaker:** The member for Ottawa West really is touching on an entirely different subject than the one which was addressed by the Attorney General in his statement, and I would ask the member to keep that in mind.

**Mr Chiarelli:** Mr Speaker, due to the fact that my time is up, I will conclude my remarks. I would ask the Attorney General to address the issues in his ministry on a

timely basis. The one today was not timely, there are many others which are not timely, and I think it is time he had an investigation on this issue.

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** I'm pleased to respond to this action today, and clearly it is appropriate that we have amendments to allow that we do not have wrongful convictions. We are all very aware of the problems that exist.

However, I would say that I'm concerned as much with what it doesn't say as with what it does say in this statement. We are aware that apparently the Ministry of Transportation is moving to take away the ability of licence-issuing offices to collect parking fines, and that is a great concern to these offices. We have heard over and over again statements by the Ministry of Transportation as to what it is going to do, and then the very next day we find out that something different occurs. The people who run these offices have been promised alternative revenue; however, they've seen nothing to substantiate the government's claims.

1400

Clearly it is appropriate that we use modern technology to validate that indeed the licence plate number is correct. This is quite a simple cross-check. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that it should have been done a long time ago. However, we welcome it. We ask, though, that maybe in any efforts to speed up parking ticket payments the Attorney General should address himself to his other cabinet colleagues and suggest there are other urgent things that should be sped up.

For example, the Minister of the Environment sat on the Spadina light rapid transit project for a very long time and added cost and indeed slowed down the investment in infrastructure. That is very salient to the question of the parking tickets, because parking tickets occur simply because people cannot get around on the transit system. We've got to address ourselves to the urgent requirement of transit. We should indeed make sure that fines are addressed to road use and to transit because we know that municipalities are doing the same as the province, and that is that the money disappears into general revenue. We've got to start spending money on our infrastructure, and it seems appropriate that parking fines would be invested in the roads.

I think that whole issue should go out to the whole cabinet. They should think of speeding up and simplifying government. But don't do it by the back door. Don't let us take away the incomes of private citizens running private licensing offices, people who are providing the province with a very good service at a very low cost. That's what the government is doing because it wants to see more bureaucrats. This is all part and parcel of this government's plan to completely socialize this province, that we will indeed end up with gazillions of civil servants and very few private business people. I don't know where the tax money is going to come from to pay any parking fines if everybody is working for the government, because it is not productive money.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I rise to talk for a moment about the conducting of business in this Legislative Assembly. There was in the daily press—the Globe and Mail, to be specific—an article which brought into question the tactics of the Liberal Party of Ontario, an allegation made by the government House leader about the fact that we were, because of our inability, he said, to accept election defeat, holding up unusually long the business of the House.

An allegation like that is not only misplaced but in fact is designed to do but one thing, and that is to bring down the level of business activity in this House so that the New Democrats can have their way with us and move to put in streamlined procedures so that they can overcome any sort of opposition.

I rise on a point of order to point out to this House and to other people that in fact the arguments placed in the public record through the newspapers are not only incorrect but are designed to inject a little more enthusiasm into our resistance of some of the activities.

I bring to your attention standing order 6, which talks about the meeting of this House and only wish to advise you, Mr Speaker, that this government violated the standing orders of this House by refusing to bring us back to this place in the early part of March when the Premier, because he was afraid to see the people, decided to delay the sitting of this House. Now the government House leader has his nerve by going out publicly to the newspapers to say we can't conduct business.

Mr Speaker, I also rise to bring to your attention that while there are a number of pieces of legislation in front of us, the business of this House cannot be conducted in this place until the government brings before the people's representatives, to be studied and debated, the pieces of legislation which have been offered to the public, promised to the public, not only through its budget, not only through its throne speech but through other indirect statements to the public.

Those pieces of legislation we have not yet seen and this government is going to try to press through, without debate, will include the labour legislation, the environmental bill of rights, the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement regulations—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Could the House leader conclude his point of order, please.

**Mr Elston:** —the clean air act, the Ontario investment fund and several others.

We cannot conduct our business here if these people will not bring forward their legislative agenda in a timely manner so we can do our business. The reason we aren't doing the business is that they have no tenacity of purpose, I shall say, no resolve to bring in front of the public these pieces of legislation to be thoroughly dissected and analysed by Her Majesty's loyal opposition, and those people, quite honestly, who even dare to disagree with their ideology.

We saw their labour paper coming out, which said they are prepared to neutralize any dissent. This latest article printed in the Globe and Mail is but another in a long

series of events designed to close off any reasonable debate and to shut down the work of Her Majesty's loyal opposition.

**Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound):** On the same point as the member for Bruce, Mr Speaker, it is indeed unfortunate that the government House leader has chosen to negotiate normal proceedings that would take place at House leaders' meetings every Thursday morning through the media. I think that's extremely unfortunate.

I'd just like to reiterate a couple of the points the member for Bruce made. That is, (a) if the government had such a heavy legislative agenda and it had so many things it wanted to accomplish in this session, indeed we should have been back here in March instead of in the month of April—that would have saved us three weeks—and (b) how can the government House leader indicate to the media that he still has 11 or 12 substantial pieces of legislation to deal with? Next Monday, for his information, is June 1. I would have thought that if these pieces of legislation were so important to the government and it knew how it wanted to proceed, they would all have been tabled at least three weeks ago, not next week, not within the next two weeks.

I'm sure we can find many speeches by the government House leader in this place criticizing previous governments for doing far less than he's going to propose to do in the next couple of weeks, and I'm sure we'll be glad to read him back those quotes ad nauseam, on and on, about how dare a government wait until the last few weeks of a session to introduce a significant piece of legislation. Well, he isn't going to do that. He's going to try to introduce a significant 12 pieces of legislation, for which there'll be no time for debate in the Ontario Legislature, and try to ram them through, and if he doesn't get them through, he's going to blame the opposition for his own incompetence.

**The Speaker:** Government House leader.

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** We've already heard your version in the *Globe and Mail*.

**Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader):** No, you didn't hear it; you read it. But I'm glad you took a look at it.

I find the comments from the two opposition House leaders very interesting. With respect to the return date for the Legislature, some of us have come to the conclusion that it doesn't really matter when we come back, because what happened last fall was that we came back here on the date prescribed in the rules and we did nothing for six weeks because the opposition parties wouldn't let anything go through the House. We've now been back in session—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Cooke:** You see, Mr Speaker, we sat and listened to them, but they don't want to listen to us, which is quite typical of this place.

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Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Government House leader.

**Hon Mr Cooke:** We've been back now for well over a month and we've got four pieces of legislation through the House: tax bills from the 1991 budget and a couple of Attorney General bills. I heard the critic for the Attorney General say today we're not doing anything. You didn't let us get the AG's bills through for about a year, so don't talk to me about that.

I am glad the House leader for the official opposition owned up to the real strategy of the opposition parties today, that is, that they don't intend to let us govern. They've never accepted the fact that we were elected on September 6. I can tell you, Mr Speaker, we were democratically elected and we're going to take whatever actions we have to take to be given the right to govern in this place. Whatever those actions of the government are, we will take those actions to take control of this place and not let an opposition party that is still wounded by its defeat in the last election try to govern this place.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Elston:** I don't mind people joining the debate and disagreeing with me; I dislike the government House leader saying I said things that have not been said. In fact, I know it is a lie. I am not allowed to call him a liar, but what he said was contained in my remarks is not correct. It is totally without any factual basis whatsoever.

While I am on my feet, Mr Speaker, I again—and I've talked to you about some of the language that's been used. I've heard people over there talking about how the opposition members are too stupid—the Minister of Transportation in other places. I can tell you, Mr Speaker, that this place is not going to be helped by this. I stood only to bring your attention to the fact that certain allegations were being made politically against our party, and against the opposition in general, about what these people could not do. It is against the standing rules of this place to impute motives in this House. It is, as the government House leader has just done, against the rules to impute to me certain false statements.

What can we do, if we are to carry on business in a human fashion here, if we cannot stand and bring to your attention the fact that they talk about such a big, heavy agenda and they won't bring the material to our attention? I only ask you, sir, to consider those from the opposition's point of view.

**The Speaker:** To the three House leaders, let me briefly address two points: (1) While I very deeply appreciate the point of order the member for Bruce brought to my attention with respect to the conducting of business in the House, there is nothing out of order; (2) the normal procedure followed for the orderly conducting of business in the chamber has been, by tradition, by way of the three House leaders meeting on a regular basis.

I have offered on previous occasions and I continue to offer that if there is any way in which my office can be of assistance in trying to provide a better vehicle or a better atmosphere for those meetings in order to have a more orderly conducting of business in the House, I'm more than delighted to do that.

If the House has come to order, then it is time for oral questions. The member for York Centre, on a different matter?

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** On a related point of order, Mr Speaker: Under the standing orders, this session of this Parliament is to adjourn for the summer on June 26. I have been advised through a usually reliable source that the government House leader—

**Mr Bradley:** The Globe and Mail.

Interjections.

**Mr Sorbara:** You might just bear with me for a moment. The government House leader—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Would the member take his seat for a moment?

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** The member for York Centre.

**Mr Sorbara:** As I was saying, the standing orders provide that this House would normally recess on June 26. I have been advised by a generally reliable source that the government House leader, the member for Windsor-Riverside, has confidentially advised his own caucus members not to make vacation plans for the month of July. The suggestion is that he would be bringing forward a motion to require—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Sorbara:** —that the government House leader has privately communicated to his caucus members not to make vacation plans for the month of July, presumably on the basis that he may be bringing forward a motion to this Parliament to extend its sitting into the month of July.

I would suggest to you, sir, that if that is indeed the case it violates the privileges of me as a member and of the other members of this House who have not been advised of that fact. I think the only fair thing to do is for the government House leader to stand in his place now and advise the House whether he has so communicated to his own caucus that information and why he hasn't communicated that to all the members of the House. I have as much right to make my vacation plans—

**The Speaker:** To the member for York Centre, there are two points here. Number one, the member is absolutely right that the standing orders prescribe a parliamentary calendar, and the House will recess on the fourth Thursday of June.

**Mr Sorbara:** If he's making plans for us to be here, we should know about it.

**The Speaker:** To the member for York Centre, who raised a point of order, I'm responding to it. Second, however, the Speaker cannot deal with hypothetical situations. If and when any particular situation actually occurs, at that time I'm able to deal with it.

It is time for oral questions. The member for Renfrew North.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** My question is to the Treasurer and it concerns what clearly is the number one priority for all Ontarians, and that's jobs. I want to pursue with the Treasurer the question of summer jobs for students and the whole situation of youth unemployment.

I will not bore my friend the Treasurer with the data which have been brought forward in the last few days by his own government, but I want to take him back to some of the references he's made earlier this week, and that the Premier has made, in respect of what the government is doing in so far as stimulating job creation is concerned. Both the Premier and the minister of finance have indicated that the government will this year be providing, for example, 3,000 positions with the Environmental Youth Corps.

Does the Treasurer understand that at 3,000—actually, my information, provided by the government, is that there will be 3,168 positions provided this summer by the Environmental Youth Corps—that will none the less be 20% fewer than were provided two years ago?

In fact, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Summer Experience program, which offered 140 positions two years ago, will this year be offering 56 positions, a reduction of some 60%. The Niagara Parks Commission, which four years ago hired some 756 students, will this summer be hiring some 500 students. The Toronto Hospital, which two years ago offered some 200 students positions, will this summer be offering no positions whatsoever.

Is the Treasurer aware of that, and what is he prepared to do about it?

1420

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** I was not aware of the Toronto Hospital's decision. That's their decision, not the decision of the government.

On the other matters, I want to assure the member for Renfrew North, who raises these questions from time to time, that funding has indeed been maintained in the Futures program and the Environmental Youth Corps program. I believe the member mentioned that the Environmental Youth Corps has 3,160. My information was that last year we had 3,200; it is basically the same as last year. As well, we have maintained our commitment in the Summer Experience program for youth and in the student and youth venture program.

On top of that, I have been informed by the Minister of Tourism and Recreation that at Ontario Place there will be at least 1,400 students employed this year, which is an increase of about 125 or more over the number employed last year. That's partly because of the open-gate policy at Ontario Place, of course. There are going to be 233 new student jobs there in partnership with the private sector.

I think, to put it in perspective, we are doing what we can, given a very tight fiscal environment, to provide jobs for our youth this summer.

**Mr Conway:** Is the Treasurer aware that the Ontario Tree Planters' Association has indicated that this summer, largely because of Ministry of Natural Resources cuts, it will be offering 1,500 fewer positions to young people to plant trees than last year? Last year's offering was approximately 4,000 positions. They are saying that this year they will be offering 1,500 fewer positions to young people.

Is he aware, for example, that in the private sector College Pro Painters, one of the big employers for young people, will this summer be offering about one half the positions it offered two years ago, that Dofasco tells us it will be offering no summer positions, that Brewers Retail tells us it has no positions for students this summer as opposed to several scores of positions just two years ago?

The Premier says the problem is serious and more needs to be done and something aggressive is going to come forward for the summer of 1992. The Treasurer says it's a vexing problem. The evidence does not confirm what you're suggesting. In fact, the programs you yourself have mentioned—I will go back again to the Environmental Youth Corps—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Does the member have a supplementary?

**Mr Conway:** —has roughly 20% fewer positions this year than two years ago and a net reduction in positions this year from last year. That is what your government officials are telling us. What do you say to young people who will not be accessing Futures? The students coming out of the Sudbury high schools, the students coming out of Cambrian College—

**The Speaker:** Would the member conclude his supplementary, please.

**Mr Conway:** —the students coming out of Laurentian will not be interested in Futures. What do you say to those people for this summer?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I appreciate the fact that the member for Renfrew North has raised the matter of the private sector in some cases not hiring as many students as last year. That was what I tried to say to the member for Renfrew North yesterday or the day before, that in the last two years there've been almost 300,000 people laid off in this province by the private sector.

On one hand, we get members opposite saying that as the government we should be laying off civil servants. It seems to me it would not make any sense whatsoever to add to the problem. We have tried to maintain our commitment to the essential programs. But the member for Renfrew North makes a good point, that the private sector is hiring fewer people in many cases and has laid off a lot of people. This government will do what it can, but I don't want to give the impression to members opposite or to anybody else that we can pick up the entire gap caused by layoffs in the private sector. We can't do it, whether it's for youth or whether it's for people of any age.

**Mr Conway:** Most reasonable people would accept that, but the reality seems to be that the government's own summer programs, in the main, are being reduced, whether it's the Environmental Youth Corps, whether it's the tree planting program, whether it's the Ontario Ministry of Ag-

riculture and Food's Summer Experience program or a score of others I could point out.

The NDP government, over the course of the last 15 months, found \$75 million to nationalize the private child care sector. The Ontario NDP government found hundreds of millions of additional dollars for the Ontario Medical Association. What I'm asking my friend the Treasurer is, within reasonable limits, will he not recognize that these young people who are desperately looking to get on the ladder of economic opportunity require as least as much assistance as you've been able to provide to the Ontario Medical Association or to some others for whom you have made a very significant accommodation?

When is Ms Akande, when is Mr Rae, when is Mr Laughren going to show to the young people of Ontario that there will be something meaningful, something real, to access in terms of employment for the summer of 1992, having regard to the fact that it is now the 27th of May?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I think the member for Renfrew North, as is usual, raises a very good point and raises matters of important public interest to this chamber, but I think he should not lead people to believe that the government hasn't maintained a lot of the programs for students this summer. I have said that before.

We have maintained our funding for the Futures program, for the Environmental Youth Corps, for Summer Experience and for the student and youth venture capital programs. At Ontario Place there's going to be more employment than there was last year. So to put it in perspective, you have to at least give credit to government for maintaining programs when it has done so.

Also, the member for Renfrew North, who is a member of some experience and influence within his caucus and his party, I hope will get the message to his colleagues in his caucus that they cannot for ever, day after day, tell us our taxation is too high. The member for Scarborough-Agincourt tells me that we should not have raised taxes. Other members, such as the member for Kenora, say the deficit's too high. The member for Renfrew North is saying we should be spending more money. It would be very helpful if there were a consistent message coming from the opposition.

#### CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

**Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt):** I want to go to the Treasurer, and the question is on jobs. We're going to be relentless on this, Treasurer, I assure you, until this problem is fixed.

I want to talk about construction jobs with you, Treasurer. You will be aware that there's a growing sense of betrayal among construction workers in this province. I talked last night with several union leaders in the construction trades. It's not a question of spending more money; it's a question of commitments that you made to the construction trades that you didn't follow through on. They've asked me if I can get some specific answers out of the Rae government.

I'll start with last year's budget. You promised in that budget that it was an anti-recession program. You promised that you would be looking after the construction

trades. You promised that you would substantially increase spending on capital projects. Yet, as we find in your financial report, what did you do? Where did you find the money to reduce your deficit? It was by cutting capital. In fact, you cut \$400 million out of capital projects. Why did you do that? You said in your report, "It is due to measures undertaken to accommodate the net revenue decline." So we're talking about commitments that you made and commitments that you broke.

My question to you, Treasurer, is this: What should I tell the workers in the construction industry about why you chose them to bear the brunt of your spending reductions last year? Why was it they who had the \$400-million reduction layered on their backs?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** I'm not sure where the member is getting his information on capital expenditures, but this year we are spending more on capital than has ever been spent in the history of this province. That's a fact, an absolute fact.

As far as the member's contention about the construction industry, people I've talked to in the construction industry—and I do talk to people in the construction industry—tell us they're very happy with the streamlining of the planning process, the 10,000 homes that are being completed this year from last year's budget and the 20,000 homes that we announced for the next three years. I think it is inappropriate and unfair to imply that the construction industry and the workers in the construction industry do not appreciate what we are doing. They do indeed.

**Mr Phillips:** I'm going to go back to the Treasurer. I asked you a specific question. It was your report, no one else's. You said you cut \$400 million out of your anti-recession program. Why did you do that? For one reason: You did that because you had revenue reductions.

I'll repeat the question, Treasurer: What should I tell the workers in those union halls about why they bore the brunt of your expenditure reduction last year? Why did you cut \$400 million out of your capital projects in order to meet your revenue reductions? What should I tell them about the impact that's had on their jobs?

1430

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I think you should tell them you made a mistake, because I can tell the member for Scarborough-Agincourt that the \$400 million to which he refers was a deferment of capital expenditures in 1991-92. I make absolutely no apology for coming to this assembly with expenditures in the past year of almost half a billion dollars less than we had budgeted a year ago. That I believe is responsible fiscal management during a recession.

**Mr Phillips:** Your own words, Treasurer, said "this reduction." You used the words, "This reduction is due to revenue declines." You've cut \$400 million out of the budget.

I'll go to this year's budget, Treasurer, because I again think you are misleading the construction workers in Ontario. You have in your budget three programs for construction jobs. I assure you that you are spending less money this year, 1992, on those three programs than you spent last year. It's right in your own budget. So don't tell

me I've got the wrong figures. If the figures are wrong, they're the figures you've got in the budget.

I want to know, how do I go to those construction workers and tell them that you are creating more jobs when you are going to spend less money this year in those three programs than you spent last year? I need a straight answer from you on this. How am I going to tell them there are more construction jobs in 1992-93 with less money?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I'm not sure whether the member for Scarborough-Agincourt is referring to the \$500-million special capital program this year or whether he's referring to the base capital of \$3.4 billion which is on top of the \$500-million special strategic capital, to total a \$3.9-billion capital program this year. That is a substantial commitment to capital in this province.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** You're missing the point.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I think I'm not missing the point. The point is that we have made a major commitment to capital expenditures, and much of that money will be done by the private sector, and the construction workers in that sector will of course benefit from that commitment to capital. I don't mind if the member for Scarborough-Agincourt is relentless day after day after day, but I do hope he'll be accurate and consistent.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** New question?

**Mr Phillips:** I resent that. I'm accurate in my numbers, and I got them straight out of the budget.

**The Speaker:** No, new question.

**Mr Phillips:** I would ask the Treasurer to withdraw that remark, because I am accurate; I am reflecting exactly what you say in your budget, Treasurer.

**The Speaker:** Treasurer.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** All I said, by the way, was that I wanted him to be accurate; I didn't say he was inaccurate. But if that offends the member for Scarborough-Agincourt, I will withdraw it.

#### PENSION FUNDS

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** I also have a question for the Treasurer, and I want to read, Treasurer, from a letter from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers regarding your Ontario investment fund, because it seems that even your own brethren don't trust you to be their financial keeper. The IBEW, to all their members who belong to the OMERS pension fund, with regard to the Ontario investment fund says this in its letter, "OMERS, as well as the other pension funds involved, said no to the idea of the Ontario investment fund, that they will not voluntarily participate." They go into a number of reasons, one of which is that the province's investment record is poor and could be politically biased.

Treasurer, the international brotherhood asks why, with your fiscal record, they should let you get your money-hungry hands on their pension money. I would ask you, Treasurer, can you give them a reason why they should trust you with their retirement funds?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** Mr Speaker, let me put the whole question of the Ontario investment fund in context, first of all; I hope you will allow me to do that.

When we indicated we wanted to create an Ontario investment fund we sought out people in the pension management field, in the public sector unions, in the private financial sector, and talked to them about this. We brought together an advisory committee. We now have a committee that's working on consultation and drafting of a specific proposal, which of course at some point will be brought to this assembly.

There was some original reluctance on the part of the public sector pension managers, and I think there's still some hesitation on their part. I don't deny that. What I've indicated to them is that any contributions to the Ontario investment fund will of course be voluntary. This is not some kind of money grab on the part of the government; it's simply an attempt to do what a lot of other jurisdictions around the world are doing and to bring Ontario into the 20th century.

**Mr Harris:** My caucus is receiving letters from many public employees all across this province who say to you, Treasurer, to keep your hands off their pension money. In fact, the employees of Wasaga Beach say their pensions "should not be plundered by government for specific government investment objectives." They say it should not be plundered by government for ideological purposes. These are the brothers and sisters in the unions all across this province who are writing these letters to me, I guess, because we're the only voice they seem to get in the Legislature.

Treasurer, your discussion paper clearly says, "Investments in the Ontario investment fund would be strictly voluntary." How do you intend to establish a voluntary fund if nobody's willing to volunteer?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** If that were true, the leader of the third party would have a point, but they are voluntary contributions. The very people of whom he speaks are serving—

**Interjection:** No one will volunteer.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** If I could be allowed to respond to the very people who asked me the question, I'll try to do that.

The people to whom the leader of the third party refers are indeed sitting on our advisory committee. I said to the leader of the third party that there was an initial hesitation on this because I think they felt it wasn't going to be a partnership kind of arrangement where it would be a voluntary contribution of a very small portion of surplus moneys in any given year from those funds, if they decide that's what they want to do. I can assure the leader of the third party that it's going to have an arm's-length relationship to government and it will have professional management. So the leader of the third party and anyone else should lay to rest any fears he might have that this would be used in any kind of political or partisan way.

**Mr Harris:** I've got to tell you, Treasurer, they are very suspicious of what you call "arm's length." They've

heard you change the word "patronage" to "empowerment," if anybody's looking for a definition of "empowerment," as they look across the province to the appointments.

The fact of the matter is, the brothers and sisters who contact me and ask for a voice in the Legislature do not trust your ability to manage their pensions. People are not going to hand over their retirement money to someone who can't get his own house in order, and they know that. So let's face it: If you proceed with this fund, it will not be voluntary. In fact, the rank and file membership, the card-carrying union members, are very suspicious of how you are leaning on their bosses for quid pro quos on all kinds of appointments and other things. They do not feel that it will be voluntary.

In view of that, Mr Treasurer—the suggestion came from one interjection—let's have a free vote, a secret-ballot vote of the brothers and sisters. They're asking for certification for strike votes. Why don't we give it to them on their own pension money?

I would ask you to consider this, Treasurer. Last fall when I introduced New Directions I called for the establishment of industrial and community development bonds. The idea would stimulate the economy at less cost and more gain. It would allow individuals and pension funds to voluntarily donate their money to the projects they deem appropriate, to the ones they have confidence in, to the ones that would benefit them and their communities. Would you be willing to consider this as an alternative to your ill-fated program to plunder the private sector pension plans?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** First of all, for the leader of the third party, the leader of the Tory party in Ontario, to cast any aspersions on patronage appointments by this government is simply beyond the pale. That really takes away any credibility that might have been in the rest of the question. But I do want to assure the leader of the third party that when he brings forth suggestions, we do give them serious consideration. I would not for a minute see community development bonds as an alternative to this fund. This is a fund where I think other jurisdictions look at us with surprise that we don't have this in place already. It was just because there was old-fashioned thinking in this province for so many years that there isn't already such a fund in place. We intend to get this province moving again.

**Mr Harris:** I don't know how it is that this party, which has dragged this province not only to a standstill but backwards, is going to pretend to get it moving again. I remind the Treasurer that the letter I'm reading from is dated May 5, so it's pretty current that they are very suspicious, not just initially when he announced it.

1440

#### SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** My second question is for the Minister of Education. For over a year I have pressed the Premier and the ministers of Community and Social Services of the NDP government to work with educators, nutritionists, social workers and the private sector to establish nutrition programs or breakfast programs,

as they are commonly called, in our schools. Minister, the rhetoric, the empty promises I've gotten from the Premier and the last two ministers of Community and Social Services have not provided one new nutritional meal for hungry children in this province. Given that studies show hungry children do not learn as well as those with a full stomach, I ask you, as Minister of Education, are you willing to take the leadership on this very important initiative?

**Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education):** I want to say to the leader of the third party that I very much appreciate his raising this issue. He will recall that when he introduced his private member's resolution I spoke with him to express my support for the initiative he presented. Since that time I can assure him that there have been discussions within the government. My colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services has been very active in this area. While I'm not able to give any further details today, I can assure the leader of the third party that we are working very seriously on this matter, and I think we can expect some indications and some announcements very soon.

**Mr Harris:** A royal commission in New Brunswick has just recommended nutrition programs in that province. I think the minister would know that, for whatever reason, thousands of children here in this province are going to school hungry. This is the sixth time I have raised this issue with your government. A well-organized cooperative program with the private sector and the schools and those volunteers won't cost the taxpayers of this province one penny, not one cent. All it requires is time, commitment, cooperation and leadership. In my resolution last fall I asked the Premier to provide it, and he did not. The Minister of Community and Social Services has not. I'm asking you, as Minister of Education: Will you commit yourself now to provide the leadership required to bring this program on stream?

**Hon Mr Silipo:** I think the short answer is yes. What I was trying to explain in my answer to the first part of the question was that we agree with the intent of what the leader of the third party has expressed. We may not agree with his conclusions that in fact it can all be done without any expenditure of public funds, but we certainly agree very much that we need to provide our young people with the kind of nutrition support they need. I certainly know, as a former school trustee in the city of Toronto, the kinds of needs that exist. So we don't disagree on the need for this kind of help to be provided.

I just reiterate that we, with the great assistance of the Ministry of Community and Social Services and my colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services, have been working very hard on this issue. I think the member opposite will be pleased with what he sees coming out.

**Mr Harris:** Last November I convened a meeting with members of school boards, teachers, nutritionists and restaurant owners in fact, who were leading the way in some jurisdictions, from across the province to talk about this very great need in our province. I introduced the resolution into the Legislature last November. I have visited

school breakfast programs and I've seen the huge successes they are for children who, for whatever reason, are going to school hungry.

It can happen if we all work together. The city of Toronto, because it saw no action from my resolution last November, just recently adopted this recommendation: "That the Minister of Education convene a meeting with all potential government supporters to explore the development of long-term, stable, multisectoral funding for school food programs."

Minister, will you respond to that and convene that meeting, so instead of working up this program that's going to cost the taxpayers money behind closed doors, in secret, you can in fact involve the private sector, which is willing to participate, anxious to participate and wants to come forward so that the program can be provided immediately and at no cost to the taxpayers?

**Hon Mr Silipo:** I know that some of those very same kinds of discussions have actually taken place, and more will continue. I will be happy to participate directly, as will, I know, my colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services, if the need is there for those discussions to happen.

I think, as the leader of the third party indicates, we would all agree that the kind of cross-support that we want in all the communities needs to be there for this to really work well. That's also the kind of direction we've been trying to provide in the discussions and preparation. But again, on the intent of what the leader of the third party has suggested, we agree.

#### TOURISM INDUSTRY

**Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte):** My question also has to do with the loss of jobs in the province of Ontario. The question is directed to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Minister, you might be aware that since September 1990 the tourism sector has been hemorrhaging jobs at an unprecedented, indeed alarming, rate. In fact the Ontario Restaurant and Foodservices Association estimates that over the past two years approximately 95,000 jobs have disappeared in the accommodations and restaurant sector alone, not to mention the thousands lost in the other tourism sectors. In light of these alarming statistics, what guarantee can you give us that you will be putting these people back to work and restoring Ontario's tourism industry to a viable, long-term source of jobs?

**Hon Peter North (Minister of Tourism and Recreation):** I thank the member for the question, because it's also a strong concern, I know, across the province in terms of the tourism industry.

I don't think there's anyone who has been or will be the tourism minister who can make the types of guarantees the member asks for. I can say to the member that we continue to work very hard in the tourism industry, certainly trying to advocate the position that the industry takes in terms of advertising and marketing and trying to bring people who are interested in the tourism industry into this province, trying to get ourselves more tourists from all parts of the world, as well as all parts of Canada and the United States. We continue to advocate the good

work that's done by the industry, and hopefully the numbers will change and we will bring more tourists in this year, which will in turn create the jobs that the member speaks of.

**Mr O'Neil:** Minister, I'm not satisfied with that answer at all. The thing is that I don't think you realize the extent of the difficulties facing this important sector of our economy. I'm far from sure that you understand how important the tourism industry is to the youth who depend for summer jobs on the tourism industry to help them make some money to go back to school.

The minister should also know that the same policies the government has pursued and that have been responsible for the disappearance of many of those approximately 95,000 jobs I just talked about have also robbed thousands of students of their only source of employment this summer. I'm talking about the Treasurer's \$1-billion tax grab, the continuing high gas prices, the continued dithering on Sunday shopping and unprecedented hikes in the fees at provincial parks. Minister, I simply want to know how you can stand by and allow your colleagues in cabinet to plunder the industry you are charged with protecting.

1450

**Hon Mr North:** Mr Speaker, why did I know he wouldn't accept my first answer? I would say to the member across the floor that he does raise real concerns. I agree with him completely that they are real concerns and they need to be dealt with. The part I disagree with is the fact that he believes our government and perhaps governments of the past have not dealt with tourism as something that would be in the forefront of the economy.

I believe our government has shown signs in terms of trying to deal with the problem of people being employed in the tourism industry. We've developed what we call OTEC, the Ontario Tourism Education Council, which deals with training and deals with the hospitality sector in trying to work with the private sector in developing a real program that deals with training and deals with good people to be in the tourism industry.

As I said earlier, we've dealt with all sectors and we've tried to address the issues of marketing and all these types of things that would bring people into this province, which will in turn help the economy of the province, which will in turn help the economy that is in the tourism industry.

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** My question is for the Minister of Education. It seems to me that today in the House there have been a number of concerns expressed by members of the opposition parties with regard to young people who won't have jobs this summer, with regard to children who go to school hungry, and, Mr Minister, I have another concern. It's one with regard to some special students in our education system who are labelled, as you know now, as needing basic education, who attend vocational schools and occupational schools and special courses throughout the province and who in September 1993, their parents are told, will be destreamed.

Mr Minister, this is a very important issue. We don't even know what those courses will look like. Parents don't

know what kind of education these students will get. We're not sure whether they'll be in special vocational schools which are working at getting young people jobs or whether they'll be in the old academic high school in their neighbourhood. We just don't know. Yet we know today that the minister is talking about a September 1993 implementation date, with no courses, no teacher training, no textbooks. In the history of this province, this has never happened before.

I'm going to ask the minister, will you reconsider this date, considering that you have done no planning with the parents, the school boards or the teachers at this point in time, when curriculum guidelines must be printed by next October? Are you going to take a look at some flexibility around that date?

**Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education):** Actually I'm glad the question has been raised here, because I'm able to say in the Legislature things I have said publicly and privately to school boards, to teachers' federations, to parents' groups and to student groups on this issue. First of all, what we are setting with respect to September 1993 is not the full and complete results of destreaming; what we are suggesting for September 1993 is that we take the next significant step, which is removing the forced labelling of students into basic, general and advanced programs. We understand very clearly that it will take longer than September 1993 to have the full effects of the implementation of a destreamed grade 9 and we are quite prepared to have that happen over a number of years.

With respect specifically to the issue of courses and teacher training, let me say to the member opposite that we have been working very hard and we will continue to work hard to ensure those two issues are addressed more than adequately. We have been talking with the Ontario Teachers' Federation about a serious in-service training program for teachers and I've committed to that happening, in consultation with the teachers' federation and with the school boards. Equally, we are developing the kind of core curriculum documents our teachers will need. We take those issues very seriously and our schools will be prepared to deal with the expectations we will have for them for September 1993.

**Mrs Cunningham:** This minister knows, and so do members of this House, simply because they're parents, that you don't think up a change in grade 9 and say, "We'll do this in grade 9 and we'll think the following year what we're going to do in grade 10."

These children are special kids who need to know what they're going to do when they finish school. They need to know whether they're going to be in a vocational program, a technical program, an apprenticeship program, and they have the same rights as other kids who are so bright that they don't need to worry about where they're going. It is totally irresponsible to talk about changing the labelling for students in grade 9 without telling those young people what they have a right to be at the end of high school or teachers' college or colleges throughout this province. They should not be asked to go into a grade 9 program not knowing where it's going to lead.

My question again is to the minister. If you have curriculum guidelines, Mr Minister, we want to see them, not just for grade 9 but for grades 9, 10, 11 and 12, knowing that some of these children have a right to be in school as they are now for five and six years in order to finish. It's not fair to talk about teacher training, totally changing curriculum and implementing this for September 1993. I will be particularly disappointed if we don't get flexibility, as we did with the last minister, who knew she wasn't ready. Again, are you going to stick to this deadline? If you are, you should stand up today and show us where these curriculum guidelines are so these parents will know what their children are going to be doing.

**Hon Mr Silipo:** Let me first of all assure the member opposite that anything we do will take very much into consideration the needs of students who have special needs and that there's nothing in this direction we believe we need to pursue that in any way affects the needs of students with special needs. They will continue to get the services they require in grade 9 and in years following.

**Mrs Cunningham:** You're wrong.

**Hon Mr Silipo:** I'm not wrong. That's exactly the intent and that's what will happen.

**Mrs Cunningham:** We don't know what you're doing. Show us the guidelines.

**Hon Mr Silipo:** I think we know what we are doing. We also know that this is an issue that's been discussed for many years. It isn't something that we've sprung on people. It's something that's been evolving. We know from the pilot projects that exist throughout the province, that were started under the previous government, that in fact we have a number of good examples of things that are happening and that we can learn from. We will ensure that the support necessary for our teachers and students is there for September 1993, given the expectation we have for September 1993, which, as I'm indicating, is simply another step in the process and not the final conclusion of the process.

#### HOSPITAL SERVICES

**Ms Margaret H. Harrington (Niagara Falls):** My question is for the Minister of Health. Since January, when cuts to our local hospital's beds and staff were announced, our city has been in an uproar. People are concerned about the process of how the decisions were made. I have received many letters of concern about the level of service and about the decisions regarding cuts and how they were made.

I've suggested to these people, these citizens of our city, that they join the hospital association, go to the annual meeting in June, voice their concerns and get some answers. We know that hospitals have long been essentially private corporations using public moneys. Madam Minister, I believe we need a more democratic governance of our hospitals. When can the Public Hospitals Act be changed?

**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health):** I want to start off by saying I think many communities have of course expressed concerns about the nature of some of the

announcements, but it's really important that we understand that some of those announcements were with respect to early thoughts around recovery plans that hospitals may need to put in place. I'm actually very pleased to see the kind of cooperation that has taken place across the province in many cases between hospital boards, hospital administration and workers in the hospital sector and mitigated the need for taking action on many of the announcements that have been made. I think we are finding that the community needs are coming first with respect to the planning of program and delivery shifts.

Having said that, I think what the member raises is the fact that from community to community there are different structures in place in terms of how people can participate in decision-making within their community hospitals around those very important decisions of program changes and delivery of service. The Public Hospitals Act had been reviewed by a task force for about two years. Recently there was a report released with recommendations. The ministry is reviewing that. I hope to be able to move on legislative revisions in short order. We were aiming for this fall. That may be optimistic and it may be next year, but it is on my agenda to move on it.

**Ms Harrington:** Madam Minister, I would also like to know how the ordinary citizens in my city can be involved in this process of looking at that report and coming up with some changes to the hospitals act.

1500

**Hon Ms Lankin:** The task force recommendations were put together by people from the hospital sector and the community. There was a lot of input there, but it was a task force, it is a report and it does need to be reviewed by a larger group of people and have public input. Some time ago I made an announcement that we would be holding hearings. I'm pleased to let the member know that the member for Simcoe Centre, who is the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Health, will be conducting a series of hearings across the province this summer. We're holding information meetings to facilitate that with special groups like consumer and volunteer groups, aboriginal groups, unions, workers' groups, to give them some background about the changes that are being recommended in the task force report.

In the five or six meetings we'll be holding across the province, we hope to get a range of responses that will at least inform us in terms of the kind of recommendations we bring forward in legislation. Of course, following that as it goes through the legislative process, members of the House and the public will be able to participate in the process as well.

#### GASOLINE PRICES

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, whose responsibility it is to protect the consumers of this province. Consumers in many parts of Ontario awoke this week to huge and unjustified increases in gasoline prices, which as always were hiked across the board by all oil companies, by the same amount and at the same time within communities across the province.

People who voted for your government may not have believed you could manage the economy and likely didn't agree with all the policies you had on your platform, but from your rhetoric and policy pronouncements they likely believed you would protect the interests of the little person, the consumer. Why have you abandoned the consumers of this province and tourism and other industries, which rely on reasonably priced gasoline? Why have you continued to permit the gouging of the consumer by unrepentant gasoline companies in Ontario, which are charging the people of Ottawa 58.9 cents a litre and jacking up the price in Toronto, St Catharines, London and Windsor by six cents a litre or 27 cents a gallon?

**Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations):** Mr Speaker, I'll refer that question to the Minister of Energy.

**Hon Brian A. Charlton (Acting Minister of Energy):** I would like to reframe the member's question slightly, because in his question he talked about giant Ontario oil companies when in fact he was talking about giant Canadian oil companies, and the problem to which the member for St Catharines refers is in fact a national problem. The price increases to which he refers are not price increases that have been imposed exclusively in the province of Ontario this week; they have been imposed right across the country. In fact, the worst price increases occurred in the city of Vancouver.

As the member well knows, the legislation which governs the operation of those national companies is federal. We continue to monitor, and when we can under legislation determine that we in fact have legal grounds on which to accomplish something, we will proceed. But the problem the member refers to is a national one, not provincial.

**Mr Bradley:** I'm surprised to hear on that side of the House an apologist for multinational corporations. I'm sure that in the union halls, the community centres and the municipal council chambers across Ontario, you and your colleagues, when in opposition and on the election campaign trail, denounced gas price increases and the companies that put them into effect. In fact, in Sudbury in August 1990, Bob Rae said, "I really think consumers are being ripped off by the gas companies."

In view of the past pronouncements, promises and rhetoric of the NDP on this issue, why don't you get out of the back pocket of the oil companies in this province—a place where the NDP never thought it'd be, but it is—and start to protect the consumers from the gouging and price-fixing practices of the multinational corporate monopoly, which imposes unnecessarily high and unfair gasoline prices on Ontario residents and those who visit our province?

**Hon Mr Charlton:** I'll simply say, with respect to the back-pocket part of the member's question, that if he suggests this government is in the back pocket of the oil companies in this country, it's a pretty crowded back pocket, and that perhaps the leader of his federal party, scrambling to try to get out of the very same pocket, is an impediment to any progress by anyone on this issue.

Having said that, my ministry continues to monitor the price increases. We have legislation in this province which allows us to deal with certain aspects of the pricing policies around oil and gas. When we can determine that there has been a violation that we can proceed to prosecute we'll deal with that violation, but the primary responsibility for ensuring that there is no price-fixing between the national oil companies in this country is not one that falls to this government.

#### CULTURAL FUNDING

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** My question is to the Minister of Culture and Communications. The Stratford Beacon Herald reported on Saturday, May 23, that this minister will recommend to the treasury board that no extra funding be provided to the Art Gallery of Ontario. However, AGO officials have never received this information from the ministry, despite the fact that they've made repeated requests for the information about the 1992-93 operating grant. If the AGO receives a \$9.5-million operating grant, the rumoured amount, the gallery will have to lay off 250 employees. The job losses would not stop there, as the gallery will be reduced to a core operation without its outreach programs, which provide employment in galleries all across Ontario. As well, the businesses in the vicinity of the AGO would suffer a loss of revenue due to the severe reduction in the AGO's visitors, 50% of whom are tourists. What a blow both to the cultural and tourism industries of Ontario.

My question, Madam Minister, is this: Can you confirm that it was your advice to the treasury board not to increase the AGO's operating grant? If so, would you give the reasons for that recommendation and tell this House why you did not extend the courtesy of advising AGO before you conveyed that information to the media?

**Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications):** That was an interview I had in my home riding. It was incorrect information. I never said I was not giving an increase to the AGO. The newspaper simply misquoted me.

**Mrs Marland:** Did the newspaper misquote you that "MPP Karen Haslam gives herself A-plus for effort"? I suppose we can assume you were misquoted then too.

For every dollar this government invests in the arts the economy benefits by \$24. This multiplier effect works in reverse when arts funding is cut. What wisdom can there be, then, in a decision that would cause substantial losses of jobs, cultural and tourism services and businesses not only in Toronto but throughout Ontario?

To start with, unemployment insurance for AGO's 250 laid-off employees would cost taxpayers \$4.6 million for 40 weeks. This amount is based on an increase of \$1 million in the gallery's operating grant. The job losses will be even greater if the gallery receives no increase.

My question, again, Madam Minister, is this: Is this your vision for the future of the arts in Ontario? Do you intend to shut down the AGO with over \$500 million worth of work? Do you intend to reduce the services at the

regional galleries and cause job losses in the cultural and tourism sectors throughout the province? Is that what you want for the future of Ontario?

1510

**Hon Mrs Haslam:** Mr Speaker, it was a rather long question and I will have a rather long answer. I gave myself an A-plus for effort; I didn't give myself an A-plus for results. I gave myself an A-plus for effort because in my ministry we've got a new publishing centre, we have a new consultation called From the Ground Up, I have a new telecommunication thing. So my A-plus was for effort.

Let me tell the member a little about the Art Gallery of Ontario. The AGO does receive from this ministry \$8.5 million. They have never informed me or my ministry that they will close the doors when I give them \$8.5 million a year. They are not an agency; they are a transfer payment recipient. As far as additional funding, they have had \$4 million in the last year for one-time funding to help with pay equity.

Just recently, in the early part of the year, I met with all the chairs of all the agencies and the AGO. I made it very clear to those chairs that these are tight financial times and that I expected all my agencies, including the Art Gallery of Ontario, to stay within their budgets and not run up a deficit, and that my priorities were outreach, education and jobs. They know where I stand.

#### HOSPITAL SERVICES

**Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich):** My question is to the Minister of Health. Madam Minister, the Essex County District Health Council, with Mary Jean Gallagher as chair, and all its members, are hard at work in Windsor as they study the rationalization of acute hospital services. As well, I trust they will have the concerns of hospital workers high on their list. The council has given its assurance that it will work closely with all segments of the health care community, citizens and labour. This goes hand in hand with our commitment to work together.

Madam Minister, your ministry provided \$500,000 on May 5 to help see this goal fulfilled. It is a goal we'll all strive to maintain as we enter the next century and we learn to spend money more wisely while continuing to maintain the best health care system in the world.

Could the minister give the good people of Windsor-Sandwich more details about the rationalization process and how it will affect hospital service in Windsor in the coming years?

**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health):** I appreciate the member's question and I think it's important to point out to all members that the process in Windsor is an important example of the kind of cooperation we see taking place in good health care planning in communities, being led by district health councils and involving all of the health partners.

In the case of Windsor, of course, the discussion that has been taking place started with a proposal from the hospitals and the DHC that perhaps in looking at a situation of too many acute care beds for the needs of the

community, there needed to be a process of turning those resources into other health resources the community needed. That led them to a cooperative process of consulting with the community.

What I think the member will see over the course of the next few months is a series of consultations led by local community partners with the community around looking at facilities, looking at the health care services that are required and looking at what's going to happen to the workers whose jobs have shifted from institution to community.

We expect that an initial report will be ready from the community by the fall. I can assure the member that the process being undertaken with provincial guidelines ensures that planning is being done to meet local health needs that are identified. His community can be assured of that as the basis for any planning process.

#### BIOMEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL

**Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre):** My question also is for the Minister of Health, the minister responsible for the quality of health care in Ontario.

The minister will know that between 10,000 and 15,000 tonnes of biomedical waste are generated in Ontario each year, and that 6,000 tonnes of that waste are burned in hospital incinerators but only one of those incinerators meets environmental protection standards for air pollution control. Hospitals desperately need funding to bring incinerators to safe standards or to introduce alternative technologies such as steam autoclaving or microwaving to deal with those wastes.

The Ministry of Health had \$15 million in its budget when this government took office to upgrade hospital incinerators and to introduce regional programs. Not one dime of that money has been spent to date. This is more than an environmental issue; this is a health issue.

I'm asking the Minister of Health when she will make funds available from her budget so that toxins from the unsafe incineration of biomedical wastes aren't themselves a health hazard to the people of Ontario.

**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health):** As a result of this being an issue that is being worked on by two ministries, I'll refer that question to the Minister of the Environment.

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment):** Let me say to the member that I agree entirely that it is indeed a very serious problem and it is a health problem. That's why, in collaboration with my colleague the Minister of Health, we have been jointly working on how to deal with the issue in a comprehensive way. There is not just the very real problem of the existing incinerators which don't meet any effective standards, but the whole question of export, which the member has raised, as well as the fact that many of these incinerators are being used to burn materials that are not strictly biomedical. I am very pleased to be able to say to the House that very shortly we will be able to release a comprehensive approach to what has been a long-standing problem.

**Mrs Sullivan:** Last October people in northwestern Ontario were informed that there would be no funding

available for a regional program to deal with biomedical wastes. The question then to the Minister of the Environment becomes: If she has ruled out state-of-the-art regional facilities and decided that individual hospitals will be responsible for their own wastes and that other biomedical waste generators will have to fend for themselves, when will money be made available to those hospitals to either close down their unsafe incinerators or upgrade them to safe standards? Also, will money be made available to hospitals for 3R programs and other similar programs that will reduce the total amount of biomedical waste that ends up in incineration programs?

**Hon Mrs Grier:** It's precisely because so much of the waste that is now being incinerated should be dealt with in other ways, whether by the 3Rs or by using some of the new technologies, that we have taken an in-depth look at the entire problem, a problem that, I must say, was exacerbated by the policies introduced by the last government which exempted facilities from certain provisions of the Environmental Assessment Act if they were less than 10—

**Mrs Sullivan:** You have not changed one thing. If you were so upset about, why didn't you change it?

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order, the member for Halton Centre.

**Hon Mrs Grier:** —and that led to a plethora of proposals for private sector medical waste facilities that gave rise to a great deal of—

**Mrs Sullivan:** You didn't change one thing, not one thing.

**Hon Mrs Grier:** But I know the member has a very sincere interest in helping us to now resolve the problem we inherited. I can assure her that in the discussions that are under way between myself and the Minister of Health we of course recognize a financial problem is there for many hospitals and it has to be part of the solution.

**The Speaker:** The time for oral questions has expired. Motions?

1520

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

**Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West):** On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I want to raise a question of privilege relating to standing order 31(a) and standing order 31(e) relative to ministerial statements and responses. I'll be very brief, but I think it's incumbent upon me, on my own behalf and that of some of my colleagues who have raised concerns, to raise this issue with you.

Standing order 31(a) says, "A minister of the crown may make a short factual statement relating to government policy, ministry action or other similar matters of which the House should be informed." Standing order 31(e) states, "Following ministerial statements a representative or representatives of each of the recognized opposition parties in the House may comment for up to a total of five minutes for each party commencing with the official opposition."

From time to time, Mr Speaker, comments have been made by the opposition parties about the nature of ministerial statements, whether they are appropriately ministerial

statements or not, and you have ruled that it's not within your discretion to indicate what the subject matter should be or how relevant the subject matter should be.

With respect to 31(e), the responses, I have observed on a regular basis that opposition members have responded on matters relative to the ministry that weren't directly on the point of the statement. Many times, from my observation and observations of my colleagues, and I'm sure the record will point it out, the members who were doing the responses were not interrupted or called to order by the Chair.

My point of privilege is, is there a standard to which the Chair adheres? If there is, I would appreciate, if you would reserve decision on it, some indication as to what the standard or what the rule should be. Second, will that be enforced equally to all the members, because I sense my comments were no more or less out of order than many comments that were made by opposition members at the time. I feel my privileges were infringed upon.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** To the member for Ottawa West, I understand the concern which he brings to my attention. He should know that it has been a practice in this House, and indeed previous speakers have commented upon it, that the responses to statements should be in keeping with the statement itself.

I'm pleased to take a look at the matter and provide the member with some background information about it, if that would be helpful. I will say in closing that I do not like interrupting members at any time because the time is precious. The Chair is obliged to do so when something is out of order. The Chair is also here to assist in whatever way possible to help the members in exercising their responsibilities. But I will take a look and provide the member with some background information; I'd be pleased to do that.

#### PETITIONS

##### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the impact that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

It's signed by individuals of Wrigley Canada Inc. I have attached my signature.

##### ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

**Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South):** I'm pleased to table a petition signed by concerned residents of Ontario which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas approximately 375 haemophiliacs in Ontario were infected with the virus which causes AIDS through contaminated blood products; and

"Whereas this was an avoidable medical catastrophe of enormous proportions; and

"Whereas the federal government has accepted its share of responsibility and provided financial assistance to HIV-infected haemophiliacs; and

"Whereas the federal government has requested that each province also provide compensation for HIV-infected haemophiliacs,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly as follows:

"That the government of Ontario must share the responsibility and provide compensation."

#### ACCESS TO PERMANENT HOUSING

**Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre):** To the Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"As housing is a basic human right and as all residents of Ontario have a right to adequate housing,

"We, the undersigned, urge the government of Ontario not to cut funding to the access to permanent housing initiatives in the next fiscal year."

#### RENT REGULATION

**Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean):** I have a petition signed by some 10 Ontario residents. The petition reads as follows:

"To the Legislature of Ontario:

"The proposed Rent Control Act, Bill 121, will prevent apartment owners from carrying out necessary major repairs to residential buildings.

"This bill, if enacted, will result in the private sector being unable to build new residential rental housing, with an ensuing loss of tens of thousands of jobs.

"This bill will ensure that the non-profit housing sector will be the only builder of new residential rental units, at enormous cost to the Ontario taxpayers.

"This law, if enacted, will be detrimental to the interests of tenants and landlords across the province; and the rent freeze legislation, Bill 4, has already put thousands of workers on the unemployment rolls and Bill 121 threatens the permanent loss of 25,000 jobs.

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"(a) To cancel the proposed Rent Control Act;

"(b) To encourage the government of Ontario to work with tenants, landlords and all interested parties to develop a new law which will be fair to all; and

"(c) To ensure that in this new legislation the interests of housing affordability and tenant protection are balanced with a recognition of the importance of allowing needed repairs to rental buildings to be financed and completed and the role of the private sector in the construction of new rental housing."

I have affixed my signature.

#### REAL ESTATE GAINS

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** I have two petitions to present to the House. The first petition is addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the government of Ontario has promised to introduce a new tax on real estate gains; and

"Whereas there is simply no evidence to suggest that real estate gains taxes either contribute to lower land and housing prices or raise significant revenue for the government; and

"Whereas in some cases a new tax on real estate gains may even raise prices by reducing supply; and

"Whereas the tax as proposed in the NDP's Agenda for People will adversely affect the entire real estate market in our community; and

"Whereas real estate gains are already subject to heavy taxation from federal and provincial governments,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to urge the Honourable Floyd Laughren, Treasurer of Ontario, not to proceed with an additional tax on real estate gains."

#### LANDFILL SITE

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** The second petition is addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the residents of the township of East Luther object to the decision made by the municipalities of Dufferin county waste management master plan steering committee to locate a landfill site in East Luther township; and

"Whereas the residents of the township of East Luther feel very strongly that the council of East Luther should be considering recycling as the process of choice for dealing with the problem of waste management and that a new disposal site be considered only as a last resort and only for the use of the local residents,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to urge the Honourable Ruth Grier, Minister of the Environment, not to approve this landfill site and look at other means of waste management."

There are approximately 300 signatures on this petition.

#### MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

**Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand):** I have a petition to the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I affix my signature to the petition.

#### REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** My petition reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a quick-fix solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

It is signed by about 48 individuals from the province of Ontario.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments of the Labour Relations Act will have on investments and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

It's been signed by individuals of Merit Contractors of Niagara and I have signed my name.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** The member for Mississauga North, do you have many petitions?

**Mr Offer:** Yes.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I would suggest that you read them.

**Mr Offer:** If there are no other members with petitions, I will read a further petition, which is to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas investment and job creation is essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments of the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

That petition has been signed by individuals of Merit Contractors of Niagara, Rashotte Electric, Mastico Industries Ltd, the Canadian Salt Co Ltd, Kenmore, Teledyne Canada, the Ontario Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association, Pavex Canada Ltd, Permanent Lafarge, Avesta Stainless Inc, King Cross Contracting Ltd, Valvoline Canada Ltd, H.H. Robertson Inc, Northland Bitulithic Ltd, Columbia-MBF, Hyundai Auto Canada Inc, Rockwell International, J-AAR Contracting, Canon Inc Eastern Structural Division, Anachemia Solvents Ltd, Vac-Aero International Inc, Victoria Electric of Kitchener Ltd, Ennis-Paikin Steel Ltd, Leonard Neal of Tamco Ltd, Normbau 2000, the Welmar Group, Don Hearn and Sons Inc, Hoffman Industries of Canada Ltd. I have affixed my signature thereto.

1530

I have a further series of petitions which read as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments of the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

That petition has been signed by individuals of Demik Construction Ltd, Teledyne Canada, Timbel Ltd, St Lawrence Cement, Permanent Concrete, AIS Communications Ltd, Tribury Construction Ltd, McDonnell Douglas Canada Ltd, Glegg Water Conditioning Inc, Burlington Stamping, Inc, Ira McDonald Construction Ltd, Vipond Automatic Sprinkler Co Ltd, Delta Faucet Canada, Home Hardware and Toddglen Construction Ltd. I have affixed my signature to these petitions.

#### REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

##### STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Mr McLean from the standing committee on government agencies presented the committee's fifth report.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Does the member wish to make a brief statement?

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** I do not, Mr Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Pursuant to standing order 104(g)(11), the report is deemed to be adopted by the House.

##### STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr White from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr4, An Act respecting the School Sisters of Notre Dame of Ontario;

Bill Pr9, An Act to revive Cambridge District Association for Christian Education;

Bill Pr25, An Act respecting the City of Vaughan;

Bill Pr31, An Act respecting the Town of Caledon.

Your committee recommends that the fees and the actual costs of printing at all stages and in the annual statute be remitted on Bill Pr4, An Act respecting the School Sisters of Notre Dame of Ontario, and Bill Pr9, An Act to revive Cambridge District Association for Christian Education.

Motion agreed to.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### TRI-DELTA OF TORONTO ACT, 1992

Mr White, on behalf of Ms Akande, moved first reading of Bill Pr42, An Act to revive Tri-Delta of Toronto.

Motion agreed to.

## CITY OF TORONTO ACT, 1992

Mr White, on behalf of Mr Marchese, moved first reading of Bill Pr43, An Act respecting the City of Toronto.

Motion agreed to.

COLLEGES COLLECTIVE BARGAINING  
STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS  
EN CE QUI CONCERNE  
LA NÉGOCIATION COLLECTIVE  
DANS LES COLLÈGES

Mr Allen moved first reading of Bill 23, An Act to amend the Colleges Collective Bargaining Act and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la négociation collective dans les collèges et la Loi sur le ministère des Collèges et Universités.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Colleges and Universities):** If I could just say a word about the purpose of this bill, it is, in the first instance, to improve the effectiveness of collective bargaining in the college system. The act will extend bargaining rights to all part-time staff working on a regular and continuing basis. The act also calls for establishing a framework for an employers' association to be composed of chairs of the boards of governors and the president of each college. Also, the act will transfer the responsibility for collective bargaining from the Ontario Council of Regents for Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology to the employers' association.

## EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992  
MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR L'ÉDUCATION

Mrs Caplan moved first reading of Bill 24, An Act to amend the Education Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'éducation.

Motion agreed to.

1540

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole):** I will keep my remarks very brief. I hadn't intended to speak, but since I have the privilege of addressing the Minister of Education, I would ask, as I state the purpose of this bill, that the minister seriously consider the amendment I have put forward to the Education Act. I believe it will address the very serious issue of the poverty cycle. It will address the very serious issue of illiteracy in this province.

The purpose of the bill is to allow equal access to schools for all persons of school age residing in Ontario. The bill repeals the provision in the act that imposes a mandatory fee on non-Canadian citizens who were admitted to the school by a school board. We have a situation in this province where children are often taken out of the system because parents are fearful of having to expose that they are here illegally. Therefore, the sins of the parents are visited on the child who is denied an education because of this, I believe, outdated provision of the Education Act.

I am hopeful the government will seriously consider passing this amendment to the act. It would permit the boards, in a permissive way, to waive the fees to ensure that those children who deserve to have an education, who

need to have an education, who in all likelihood will reside in this province, being not only functionally illiterate but truly illiterate and uneducated because they've been denied access to education because of the status of their parents—I'm hopeful that during the debate on this bill the Minister of Education will indeed support it and see its passage.

PARKING INFRACTIONS  
STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS  
EN CE QUI CONCERNE LES INFRACTIONS  
DE STATIONNEMENT

Mr Hampton moved first reading of Bill 25, An Act to amend the Provincial Offences Act and the Highway Traffic Act in relation to Parking Infractions / Loi modifiant la Loi sur les infractions provinciales et le Code de la route en ce qui concerne les infractions de stationnement.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General):** Briefly, we have received over the last year or so many complaints that the process for dealing with parking tickets is unduly complicated and that sometimes errors are made in the recording of licence plates on parking tickets. We hope this legislation will provide a more sure system of having tickets issued that are correct on their face. We believe it will also result in a more efficient use of court time in terms of the processing of convictions. Finally, it will allow those who are issued a ticket that is improper or somehow wrong to have the issuance of the ticket more easily and more quickly withdrawn.

## GAMING SERVICES ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992  
SUR LES SERVICES RELATIFS AU JEU

Ms Churley moved first reading of Bill 26, An Act to provide for the Regulation of Gaming Services / Loi prévoyant la réglementation des services relatifs au jeu.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations):** I'm pleased to introduce for first reading the new Gaming Services Act. Charitable gaming was first permitted in Ontario in 1970. Since then it has evolved from basic church basement entertainment to the multi-billion-dollar business we see today. With this explosive growth have come a number of problems relating to accountability in the charitable gaming marketplace and the proliferation of commercial bingo halls. As an interim measure to deal with these concerns, a moratorium was placed on the licensees of bingos in new commercial facilities in 1989.

Today, I'm introducing comprehensive gaming services legislation to ensure that charities receive their fair share of the proceeds of charitable gaming. The Gaming Services Act will regulate the activities, services and fees of commercial participants in Ontario's charitable gaming industry and require the registration of those who provide gaming services, supplies and premises in accordance with high standards of honesty, integrity and financial responsibility.

The Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations is committed to discussions with the first nations on

the Gaming Services Act will pave the way for the first nations relating to control, regulation and administration of gaming activities on their reserves.

I would like to emphasize that this bill focuses on the charitable component of gaming in Ontario and is separate from the issue of casino gambling. I urge all members to support this bill, which we believe will ultimately lead to a more honest and equitable marketplace for all participants in charitable gaming in Ontario.

SCHOOL BOARD FINANCE  
STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992  
LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS  
EN CE QUI CONCERNE LE FINANCEMENT  
DES CONSEILS SCOLAIRES

Mr Silipo moved first reading of Bill 27, An Act to amend the Education Act and certain other Acts in respect of School Board Finance / Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'éducation et certaines autres lois en ce qui concerne le financement des conseils scolaires.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education):** Briefly, there are two areas covered by these amendments. The first would increase the borrowing limit for school boards which are under supervision of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, with the prior approval of the Minister of Education.

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** Deficit financing; what a great idea.

**Hon Mr Silipo:** It does not deal with the deficit financing the members opposite are talking about.

The second area involves changes to various acts with regard to the division of property taxes between public and separate school boards. It will provide for the division of property taxes payable by the crown, crown agencies, municipalities, local boards and conservation authorities in an equitable manner between public and separate school purposes.

This amendment would also permit other corporations without share capital and corporations sold to divide their property taxes between public and separate school purposes according to their choice. This last provision was a provision that was in the former Bill 125.

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

House in committee of the whole.

RENT CONTROL ACT, 1992  
LOI DE 1992 SUR LE CONTRÔLE DES LOYERS

Consideration of Bill 121, An Act to revise the Law related to Residential Rent Regulation / Loi révisant les lois relatives à la réglementation des loyers d'habitation.

**The Chair (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** When we adjourned, we were dealing with Ms Poole's amendment. Ms Poole moved that subsection 1(1) of the bill, as amended by the general government committee, be amended by adding the following definition:

"'Board' means the Rent Review Appeals Board."

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** On a point of order, Mr Chairman: I am quite sure that the Min-

ister of Housing would expect that this bill is worth, in her opinion, at least a quorum in the House.

**The Chair:** Would you please check if there is a quorum.

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals (Mr Alex D. McFedries):** A quorum is not present.

The Chair ordered the bells rung.

1552

**The Chair:** A quorum is now present.

**Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton):** I believe I was in the middle of a sentence when last we adjourned the committee, so perhaps if I started by completing that sentence, at the time of adjournment I was talking about the various groups in society that are very strong on the notion of having an avenue of appeal.

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** What's the end of the sentence?

**Ms Poole:** Mr Tilson, the member for Dufferin-Peel, has asked, "What's the end of the sentence?" I have Hansard. My last sentence was, "Everybody wants an appeal, and the demands for an appeal system have not—"

Then the government whip adjourned us, so what can I say? The demands for an appeal system have not abated since that time. The Federation of Metropolitan Toronto Tenants' Associations, the Tenant Advocacy Group, the Ottawa-Carleton Tenants' Association, the Fair Rental Policy Organization, AFFORD, all these various groups—as you can notice, some of them are tenants, some of them are landlords, but it's one of the rare things they have actually reached unanimity on, that they want an appeal board.

The minister, in her response as to why this government would not grant the right of appeal to tenants and landlords in this province, mentioned the fact that this system is vastly different from Bill 51's system. Under Bill 51, she said, it was administrative review with an appeal. The minister said that under this system in most cases there is now a right of automatic hearing, so therefore you don't need appeal. I'd just like to remind the minister and the House, through you, Mr Chair, that when this legislation was first tabled in June 1991 the system was one of administrative review and only if a landlord and a tenant requested an automatic hearing within 15 days could there be a hearing process. In the vast majority of cases it would end up as administrative review. At that stage, was there an appeal when it was still administrative review? The answer is no.

Since then, due to various pressures, including the opposition and certainly tenant and landlord groups, the minister has put in an amendment to the legislation that was approved by the standing committee on general government that allows a hearing. But the fact of the matter is that if the minister is basing her lack of need for appeal on the fact that it was originally administrative review under Bill 51 and it isn't here, I say to her there was no appeal in this legislation we're looking at right now when it was administrative review. So it just doesn't bear water, Madam Minister.

The other point the minister made which somewhat puzzled me was that Dr Ray's comments were actually invalid or no longer necessary because we had gone to a system where in most cases it would be a right of automatic hearing. If you look at what I shared with the House as Dr Ray's reasons for wanting the right of appeal, they're still as valid when you have a hearing as when you had an administrative review.

The first thing Dr Ray said was that there should be a separation of powers and that we needed an independent, arm's-length appeal board, because this would operate independently of perceived or real political influence and would be free also of influence from the ministerial and bureaucratic side.

We look at the fact that this legislation now has a right of automatic hearing. Does that give us independence? No. Does it give an arm's-length decision? No. Does it prohibit interference by the minister's office or the ministry, the bureaucratic side? The answer to all those questions is no. So the fact that you've now changed it to automatic hearing, while it was a welcome amendment, which I believe I made personally and with the support of the government in the 99th hour or whatever we were in at that particular point, does not negate the need for appeal.

The second point Dr Ray brought up was the prohibitive cost of appealing through the Divisional Court, which this legislation allows only in a very narrow way. Divisional Court is extremely expensive. Most tenants and most small landlords cannot afford to go to Divisional Court. This is not changed by the fact that you have hearings instead of administrative review. I look at Dr Ray's arguments and I find them just as valid with the fact that we have hearings as they were if we had administrative review.

On Monday, when we last were debating this particular section of the bill, I mentioned that the member for Oriole had done a survey in her riding of 15,000 tenants. Of those who responded, 91.59% said the Liberal caucus should not support rent legislation that does not provide adequate appeal for rent review orders. I did a very similar type of survey in Don Mills of 26,000 tenant households and in that particular instance 87.6% of the tenants who responded said the Liberal caucus should not support rent legislation that does not provide adequate appeal.

I don't think there's any doubt that this legislation does not allow adequate appeal. It allows appeal on, I think the minister said, very serious errors—not "complex"; let me be very specific about that. Serious errors could in the discretion of the rent review officer or the chief rent review officer be reviewed within one year, but it's the same parties reviewing the same information. So how do we get independence? How do we get an arm's-length decision? Think of human nature. Is it human nature to want to admit you made a mistake? Chances are you don't want to admit you and your organization made a mistake.

**Mr Tilson:** On a point of order, Mr Chair: I'm listening very carefully to the member for Eglinton, and I think more people should hear these thoughts. I don't believe there's a quorum present.

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals:** A quorum is not present.

The Chair ordered the bells rung.

1601

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals:** A quorum is now present.

**Ms Poole:** I'm certainly grateful to the member for Dufferin-Peel for wanting as many people as possible to hear the words I have to say today. I must have a devious mind, because I thought he was actually a little bored by what I had to say and wanted a break; but I'm sure that wasn't the case.

As I was saying just before we had to break so that the government members could come in and listen to what I had to say, the right of appeal is one of democratic history and precedent in this province. It was suggested, when we were in the standing committee on general government, by one of the government members that it was actually possible to have only one level and have it operate very efficiently. I believe the example given was the Ontario Labour Relations Board, which doesn't have a right of appeal per se. When I responded to that government member's comments in general government, what I said was if we only had one level and if it was, as the labour relations board is, independently appointed, if it was an arm's-length body, then I would have far less of a problem with not having an appeal process.

It is very clear this legislation does not have that arm's-length capacity. The rent officers are appointed by the ministry. The policy direction is provided by the ministry and by the minister. Any in-house appeal of serious errors by the rent review officer is made within the system. There's no opportunity for an independent, arm's-length body to give advice whether indeed the ministry has erred.

A hearings process is welcome, but as an opposition member, Madam Minister, I have to say it doesn't go far enough. It doesn't abrogate the need for an appeals board, so I sincerely hope that on behalf of tenants and landlords in this province you will reconsider this position and reinstate the appeals board, which, in my opinion, was one of the finest aspects of Bill 51 and is sorely needed for this legislation.

**The Chair:** Are there any questions or comments on Ms Poole's amendment?

**Mr Tilson:** There's no question the Progressive Conservative caucus has long supported the principle of an appeal process in legislation such as this. Of course we are supporting the amendment, notwithstanding the fact the Liberal caucus voted in favour of this bill and indeed the whole arrangement of this bill on second reading. We find it rather astounding that the critic for the Liberal Party would stand in this committee today and all through the hearings and take the position she has been taking when she has supported the bill. They supported Bill 4 and they support Bill 121. The whole process with respect to the appeal process—I must say the position they're taking now is rather astounding, since they have supported the government's position in the past.

Our party, of course, is in favour of an appeal process. I can't understand the government's position in taking that away. There is no other piece of legislation that I know of in Ontario on this type of hearing process where there isn't some sort of an appeal where individuals, whether they be landlords or tenants, have the right to proceed to hear a second opinion.

There are biases. Civil servants are biased. Gosh knows the Minister of Housing is biased. Gosh knows the critic for the Liberal Party is biased. I'm biased. I don't even like the bill. I don't mind saying that; I'm biased. So we're all biased in our opinions. Judges are biased and that's why you have an appeal process in the whole judicial system. Whether individuals who make decisions be administrators or whether the decisions be quasi-judicial decisions or whether they be simply bureaucratic decisions, there should be a right to appeal those decisions because of their biases.

It's unfortunate that now the landlords in this province and the tenants in this province will not have that right. There will be no right to appeal unless it's one of law, so we'll have to hope that all the problems will be expanded into areas of law—a rather astounding position for the great, fair New Democratic Party to take, to say that you won't have the right to appeal. There's no right to appeal in this legislation. Oh, yes, they've referred to clerical errors and the power to reconsider. The Minister of Housing, when we last spoke, commented on that, but that's not an appeal process. That's the same people who made the decision in the first occurrence making another decision.

But what if that person is biased? I have great faith in our civil service and I have great faith in our judicial system, but people are biased, for whatever reason. They may not like the people who are appearing before them, whether it's the landlord or the tenant. It could be some innocent matter. Naturally, then, if it's an unfair decision, on anything whatsoever, because all the t's aren't crossed or all the i's dotted in this legislation—there are all kinds of holes that people will find, whether it's landlords' associations or whether it's tenants' associations—there will be holes and there will be unfair decisions that will be made by the rent officers.

We don't even know what a lot of the words mean. The draft regulations, I understand—and I must confess the minister corrected me in saying that they were presented some time ago. I haven't seen them, but I am concerned with many of the strange definitions we're talking about. The critic for our party, Mrs Marland, has spent a great deal of time on the lack of training that is being planned for these individuals. This is a very technical, complicated bill, and we've waited for the minister to come forward with comments as to how the rent officers are going to be trained to interpret what in the world "neglect" means, what in the world "inadequate maintenance" means. They sound simple enough, but I can assure you that there will be all kinds of definitions being made. And where will the principle of stare decisis be made or used or enforced, or will it be that one rent officer has one meaning for what neglect means and another rent officer has another meaning for what neglect means? How those are determined is

through the appeal process, where members of the appeal board can put forward their interpretation as to what that means. That's how you formulate law. That's how you formulate the landlord and tenant law.

There's no question that reference has been made to the chairman of the Rent Review Hearings Board, who has provided members of the government services committee with its comments. It's an independent body of which Mr Ray is the chairman, and he did summarize his concerns of the lack of an appeal process. I think this is one of our major concerns that this government is not listening to both the landlords and the tenants of this province and not putting forward an appeal process.

Just quoting from a memorandum from all board members on this subject of a lack of appeal process—members of the committee have it; it's dated November 28, 1991—he talked about a summary of the board's concerns over the absence of an independent appeal tribunal mechanism within the proposed Rent Control Act. Here we have an independent group of individuals, the Rent Review Hearings Board, which has been hearing all the current decisions under Bill 51, and this is what Mr Ray and his board members have to say: "Those parties who most need an affordable, accessible and expeditious appeal mechanism will not be served. The vast majority of unrepresented tenants and small landlords cannot afford the costly appeal process, the costs of which are counted in tens of thousands of dollars."

1610

There's no question what this bill says. It's only on a matter of law that you're going to be able to go to the Divisional Court. There's nothing with respect to any other aspect. If you can afford a fancy representative for large tenants' or landlords' associations, maybe they can persuade these untrained rent officers to understand their position and hope they won't be biased.

There is no independence, either actual or perceived, of the decision-makers. Decisions will be made with direct access in control of the civil servants in the ministry also responsible for drafting the act and regulations and who in turn are directly responsible to the minister. There is a total absence of the principle of "He who hears decides." We're going to have someone who will be going to these rent officers or going around trying to define inadequate maintenance and neglect and that's it. Whatever they say goes. Maybe there's inadequate maintenance; maybe there isn't. If that's not correct, whether it's tenants or landlords, there is no appeal process unless there's some definition of law that hasn't been followed.

The third point is that courts are increasingly deferring to the findings of specialized tribunals of competent jurisdiction. It has been found there's no other system of appeal that compares with the recognized expertise of such tribunals.

The Rent Review Hearings Board is such a tribunal of very experienced individuals to hear what was complicated and now has become even more complicated matters of law and interpretation. Can you imagine the average tenant or landlord trying to understand what in the world Bill 121 says and what they can and cannot do?

Everyone in the world can't afford a lawyer. Everyone in the world can't afford representation from tenants' associations or representation from landlords' associations, which in turn can afford lawyers, consultants or people who can afford to assist them. They all can't do that. What are they going to do? They are going to have to rely on these untrained rent officers. The minister, I'm sure, will stand shortly and say they will be trained. I question the fact that there is still no appeal process whether they are trained, biased or unbiased. There's no appeal process on matters of fact.

It may well be that she is going to say, "Well, it'll be cheaper." Sure, justice can be expensive. To have an appeal tribunal can be a delay. Maybe that's what they're trying to do: to say if you don't have justice, well, it's cheaper. I find it regrettable that they would take that position.

The absence of an independent tribunal appeal process takes a basic right away from those most in need of protection by the government: thousands of tenants and small landlords. That's what we're looking for: protection from the government. Our government, whether it's federal, provincial, municipal—everything's becoming so big. Everything's so difficult to understand. This bill is difficult to understand and I've sat through many of the hearings, whether it's Bill 4 or Bill 121, and I understand a lot of legal principles, but I have a lot of difficulty understanding the whole process of this bill. Can you imagine someone who has had no experience, no legal training, trying to understand some of these things?

Some of the comments that the critic for the Liberal Party has spent time on I won't spend too much more time on, other than to elaborate on some of the issues that were raised by the Rent Review Hearings Board. Mr Ray, who presented this paper to the committee, said that historically the independent appeal process is widely used. He said:

"The volume of appeals from rent review services to the board has risen sharply from the proportion of appeals in the Residential Tenancy Commission, hovering around 25%. There were criticisms of the Residential Tenancy Commission that in-house appeals were not sufficiently independent to ensure the decisions were made free of influence and policy guidelines of the commission. The appeals to the board under the current legislation do not bear this criticism, and they have been large in number, pointing to a very real need of being served in an unbiased fashion."

I agree, but all that's gone. This appeal process that we now have in place under Bill 51 is gone, and the tenant and the landlord will be left to who knows what type of decision that's going to be made by the untrained rent officer.

He also talked about appeal tribunals being more cost-effective and expeditious. It may well be that the current government doesn't understand the process, that maybe it has received complaints about the cost of hiring experts to go to the current appeal board. So do away with it. That's what they say.

It may well be, and Mr Ray talks about this, that there should be less emphasis on going to the courts. This bill, I can assure you, will be challenged in the courts. There will be a great deal of time and money spent on the validity and

what many of these words mean in the courts on questions of law, because the bill certainly doesn't define it. The rent officers have no idea what they mean.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** On a point of order, Mr Chair: I think it's now another time to call for a quorum.

**The Chair:** I'll ask the table to verify if there is a quorum or not.

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals:** A quorum is not present.

The Chair ordered the bells rung.

1619

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals:** A quorum is now present.

**Mr Tilson:** In conclusion, I believe I can't be more clear that our party supports an appeal process. Certainly an appeal process has been inherent in the rent review legislation since it was first instituted, and it has worked. It has provided some fair decisions. Due to this legislation's lack of definitions and proper explanations of many of the terms and terminology, and elaboration on many of the clauses put forward, this legislation cries out for an appeal process. What in the world does this legislation mean? What are these people going to do?

A decision is made. "Well, the rent officer made it; it must be okay." That's not the way you do business in this province. That's not the way at all. You do it in a systematic, quasi-judicial process so that, of those initial decisions, a right of appeal can be made. All that is gone.

It's absolutely unheard of in any other piece of legislation or any other jurisdiction that I've heard of that this whole process, based on undetermined legislation, undetermined definitions, inadequate definitions, biased opinions of civil servants, can be arbitrarily decided by one person, whose training even the minister can't discern, and that's not appealable. That is astounding and inexcusable. Therefore, I would ask the members of this committee to support this amendment and any other amendment that's put forward with respect to re-establishing an appeal process.

**Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing):** The members of the rent review appeals board, through the letter that was distributed to members of the committee by Dr Ratna Ray, who was the chair of that board, have expressed the view that the work they have done as appeals officers under the existing legislation has been good work, and I'm glad to know that. I think that given the way Bill 51 operated, where, first of all, there was an administrative decision on a rent determination and then there was a possibility of appeals, it was good that people could appeal to members sitting on the appeals board who thought that the work they were doing was important work. I'm not surprised either that they should regret that their services are not going to be used in the same way under this new legislation. I don't think anybody here would be surprised at that.

I would like to suggest that the board and the fine work that it has carried on is so familiar to the member for Dufferin-Peel that he doesn't recognize that Dr Ray is not

a man, a "he," but a woman. He clearly is not terribly familiar with the work of the board.

He has suggested so often that the people who will be making the initial determination after a hearing, who are the rent control officers, will be untrained. He says it so often that the unsuspecting person hearing this might think that in fact we have written into the legislation that the rent officers are going to be untrained. Indeed, I'd like to disabuse any of our listeners from that belief. We have not suggested that they be untrained; in fact, they will be trained.

He has suggested that the government has taken the position of doing away with the appeals board because it's cheaper. That isn't what we've suggested. It will be cheaper, but what it will be, much more than that, is more effective. We have had the situation where decisions made on administrative review are held up for months before the appeals board has been able to get at them. We've had overlapping decisions and situations where rent decisions that should be made for the years 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991 are still held up with appeals board hearings and then court reviews from 1987 rent determinations, the last time I looked at the backlog. This has been an appalling mess. We hope to straighten it out and we hope to provide good service for the public of Ontario, both landlord and tenant, by providing assistance where, after a hearing, there will be a determination.

If there is an error, it will be reviewed not by the same people as the member for Dufferin-Peel has suggested but by different people. The rent officer will make the initial determination. It is the chief rent officer, a different person or a delegate of the chief rent officer who will do the review if an error is brought to the attention of the chief rent officer. That process has been suggested to us by comments made by the Ombudsman.

I'd also like to suggest to the Liberal critic, who has put forward as good a case as can be made for having an appeal process within a rent control bill, that in fact the surveys she has quoted us are quite extraordinary surveys. To say to somebody, "Do you want adequate appeal?"—of course everybody wants adequate appeal. I suggest to you, Mr Speaker, that what we have provided within this legislation is a fair hearing process. We have provided the possibility, where there is an error brought to the attention of the chief rent officer, of a review by a different person.

All these people, of course, will be public servants in the employ of Ontario. They are not people I personally appoint. These are people who are hired to carry out the legislative administrative duties of the public servants of Ontario. They will carry out the intent of this legislation. These are people who are not going to be interfered with by a minister—not by this minister, not by any minister, and they are not going to be interfered with by ministerial staff when they make their decisions—not by this minister's staff, not by any minister's staff.

I don't think that either party across would suggest that it would expect, were it in government, that the Minister of Housing or staff of the Ministry of Housing would interfere in a rent determination hearing under whatever legislation. I think it is quite scandalous to suggest that or to

imply it. It really does give a very bad impression to the public of Ontario to have opposition members suggesting that kind of thing. I think it is unwise and in fact unpardonable to imply it. These people, who will be carrying out their duties to the very best of their abilities and with the best training that can be provided for them, will make determinations to the best of their judgement. I think that's the best we can ask for.

Of course there will be contested decisions. There are within the legislation opportunities to have serious errors addressed. If beyond that there are questions of law, people will go to court. There's nothing we can do about that. They will.

**Ms Poole:** Although it's not necessarily my tendency to run to the defence of the member for Dufferin-Peel on a lot of occasions, in this case I think the minister has been unnecessarily harsh when she criticized the member for not knowing that Dr Ray is indeed a female. I suspect that other than the minister and I, there are probably not very many members in this House, even if all 130 of us were here at this time, who would know that Dr Ray is a female. Most of the correspondence from Dr Ray is in writing, and most of the time when we deal with the hearings board it is not with the chair of the hearings board; it is indeed with the members. So I don't think it necessarily implies any degree of incompetence because a member would not know that Dr Ray is a she.

To go on with a few of the things the minister said, she said the appeals process was generating a lot of delay and that it was quite distressing to see how much delay was caused in the backlog at the appeals. But if the minister chose to take a close look at it she would find that indeed the majority of the backlog is not created by the appeals level; it is created at the rent review level. If the minister would go back in history a little bit, she would know why that happened.

1630

When the Liberal government introduced amendments to rent regulation a number of years ago, they brought virtually every rental unit in the province into the rent review process—under rent control, as we appear to be calling it now. They brought in all the buildings that were built post-1975, they brought in all the units that had greater than \$750-a-month rent, and it was enormous flood of applications coming into a system from these changes that did create a backlog which became a nightmare. That was what created that initial backlog, and obviously things could not get appealed.

When she's talking about two-year, three-year and four-year delays, it was not because of the appeals board. I have worked extensively with rent review and with the appeals board and have attended many hearings with tenants, and I can tell you that those tenants felt that the appeals board was a very worthy process and they were glad it was there.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** It was their first hearing. That was their only hearing.

**Ms Poole:** Madam Minister is saying by way of interjection that this is their only hearing, but I can tell the

minister that when tenants go to a hearing and when they feel that the rent officer has not taken into consideration all the facts or that he has erred in his decision, when you ask those tenants at that stage whether they're glad there's no right of appeal, I think you're going to get a very different story.

The minister was also critical of the survey because we asked, "Do you want adequate appeal in the system?" She said: "This is very simplistic. Of course they're going to say they want it." Well, Madam Minister, that's what it comes down to: People want the right of appeal.

If you talk about simplistic, I know this minister was not minister at the time, but in February of last year when her predecessor, the member for Windsor-Riverside, sent a survey to all the tenants in the province asking them their opinions of rent review and rent control with very little backup information attached to it, that was what I call simplistic, giving a minimum of information and then asking questions which would lead to the conclusion the minister wanted to hear. That was not only simplistic, that survey was absolutely misleading in the way it was set up, and at quite a considerable cost to the taxpayers, I may say.

The minister was—I think the word she used was "scandalous." She thought it was scandalous, unwise and unpardonable that the opposition members would imply that a minister or a minister's office, the ministry, would interfere in a rent decision. What we were talking about, Madam Minister, is a matter of interpretation and a matter of direction. What does the minister think is going to happen when the first precedents under this new rent legislation are made? Do you think this rent officer, in splendid isolation, is going to make a decision that may well determine what happens down the line with other cases; on his own, without any direction, without any interpretation from the minister's office or the ministry? Highly unlikely.

Let's face it: If a rent officer knows he is going against the grain of the current political powers that be by making a certain decision, what kind of influence is that going to have on that decision? Yet that's when the independent, arm's-length right of appeal is denied. That's what this basically comes down to.

I'd just like to make two further points on the comments of the member for Dufferin-Peel. The first is to correct an inaccuracy in his comments. He said the Liberal caucus voted in favour of Bill 4. I would remind members of this House that the Liberal caucus voted against Bill 4 on third and final reading because the amendments we proposed to the government to make it a fairer bill were denied.

**Mr Tilson:** You voted for Bill 121 on second reading.

**Ms Poole:** Now Mr Tilson brings up Bill 121, and that was the second point I wished to raise as a matter of clarification. On second reading, you vote on whether it is the principle you can support. This is a bill of rent review, not rent control, as the government promised. This was not tied to the government's promise it made in the 1990 election and which we felt was unworkable, unenforceable and would be devastating to our aging housing stock.

We supported their move to going to a rent review system that would actually allow for rent increases so that our aging housing stock could be maintained. That principle we supported then and we support now, but at the time, we also made it very clear that there were amendments the Liberal caucus was seeking to this legislation. Among them is the appeals board. Many of the major amendments the Liberal caucus made in the general government committee were not accepted by the government, and now the Liberal caucus will make a decision whether the government has amended this legislation sufficiently to vote for or against it on third reading.

The Conservatives have a kind of unusual theory about all this. They think that because it's proposed by the NDP government you must vote against it always. They say there's no room to be open-minded and to see whether the government would accept amendments. To be fair, which I try to be at least some of the time, the government did accept a number of the Liberal amendments—about a dozen of them, I think. The majority of them were relatively minor amendments but I think they still made this legislation more palatable for tenants.

Two of the amendments I consider to be of major import: one, the right to an automatic hearing; and two, that a cost-no-longer-borne provision was instituted. I congratulate the government on going to both those concepts, but that does not mean that whatever decision we made on second reading is final. Third reading begins next week and you'll all just have to wait with bated breath to find out what our caucus will do. It'll be a surprise to all of you.

**Mrs Marland:** It's so exciting and so interesting to sit here this afternoon and hear everybody being such an authority on what the position of the Progressive Conservative Party is on this bill. I must say, if I didn't have something better to do with my time, I might enjoy sitting here having the Housing minister and the critic for the Liberal Party tell me what we vote on.

I will tell you, Mr Chair, that the Progressive Conservative Party does vote on principle. We don't play games, not like the Liberal opposition party, which voted in favour of this bill we are discussing today and will most likely vote in favour of it on third reading. I'm not a gambling person, but if I were, I certainly would love to be around—

**The Chair:** Order, please. I think you're very much aware that you're not debating the amendment at all. You have to debate the amendment.

**Ms Poole:** On a point of order, Mr Chair: I think it is unwise in this House to impute motivation. It is certainly most unwise for the third party critic to guess and gamble on how the Liberal caucus is going to vote. I suggest you wait to find out.

**The Chair:** Proceed, the member for Mississauga South.

**Mrs Marland:** Mr Chair, you didn't call the critic for the Liberal Party to order when she talked about who was voting on what in terms of speaking to the amendment. When I rise to respond to the same comments she made, you're calling me to order.

Let me say simply that when the Minister of Housing said a few moments ago that of course there's going to be a right of appeal for the public in terms of this dreadful Bill 121 without an appeal board, that there's always the Ombudsman, it's almost as ludicrous for her to suggest that as to say there's also the Ontario Human Rights Commission, which is now bogged down three and four years with appeals.

**The Chair:** On a point of order, minister.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** Is it a point of order to point out that she is saying I said something which I did not?

**The Chair:** That's not a point of order. I think you will have the occasion to correct the statement she has made when you have the floor.

**Mrs Marland:** The Progressive Conservative caucus voted against this bill at second reading. We are going to vote in favour of this amendment that is on the floor, but we will again vote against this bill on third reading. We are consistent; we do not have unusual theories in our voting and we do not have unusual patterns in our voting. We know what we're doing. We do not switch back and forth for this amendment or that amendment.

The amendment on the floor today simply takes away from the people of this province, whether they are tenants or whether they are property owners, the right to appeal the decision of one individual. This individual, we have heard so many times, is called the rent officer. We have also been told by the minister that they are going to hire 110 rent officers. We've also been told that some of the new rent officers they're going to hire may presently be working in the rent review system that exists under Bill 4. I suppose that with an almost two-year backlog now in some rent appeals, it's going to be very interesting when they take some of the staff who are now presently in one job and hire them to do this job. Who will do the job they're leaving?

**Mr Stockwell:** On a point of order, Mr Chair: I think it's incumbent on the government to have a quorum. It's getting very frustrating. It's a simple job: 20 people. I wish we could get a quorum in this place.

**The Chair:** I'll check with the table if there is a quorum.

**Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees (Ms Deborah Deller):** A quorum is not present, Mr Chair.

The Chair ordered the bells rung.

1643

**Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees:** A quorum is present.

**Mrs Marland:** In speaking to the amendment to subsection 1(1), I would like to continue to explain why we support this amendment and why there is a necessity for an appeals board or some form of appeal mechanism to this regressive Bill 121. I guess I'd feel a little more confident about a number of things if we hadn't had so many negative and also nebulous answers from the minister during the process of the committee hearings of the general government committee when we were going through this bill section by section. On a number of occasions, when we

asked questions about who these rent officers would be, where they would come from, how much they would be paid, what kind of training they would need and so forth, we couldn't get any answers.

After my persistence and that of the member for Dufferin-Peel, we finally got a commitment from the minister. Because we were insistent on who these people were going to be, they agreed to have their human resources people attend the committee and explain what plans they had for the training and the prerequisite qualifications for these individuals.

Bear in mind that these individuals are really similar to wizards, as I started to call them. They have to be so brilliant, they have to be such specialists and so knowledgeable that they are able to deal with any kind of appeal of rent that might come to their office.

It is also said in response to our questions that if they don't have the knowledge, if they're not experts in engineering so they can decide whether there's a concern about the safety of a balcony, the structural safety of a load-bearing wall, perhaps the structural safety of a roof in an underground garage in an apartment building—if they don't have that knowledge what can they do? Of course they can call in the expert witnesses. This whole process gets more and more interesting. Who pays for the expert witnesses? Who is going to bear the cost of this expertise that has to be called in because the wizards don't have enough knowledge to do their job?

The wizards in this bill, without this amendment, have all the power in the world to say to my tenants, "No, you can't object to your increase" or "You can't qualify for a reduction because in my opinion there's no problem with your stove; there's no problem with the wind blowing through your window" or whatever the issue is. The decision rests solely on this wizard called the rent officer.

If we had had more confidence in the answers to many of the questions we asked during the committee hearings, I suppose we wouldn't have spent as much time as we did on the powerful position of this person called "rent officer" without knowing what all the training and qualifications were. Even when we had the human resources people at the committee, some of the training and prerequisite qualifications were not yet established because, to use the minister's own words: "We don't even know what they're going to be doing yet because we haven't got this bill through. How do we know what their job is going to be until the bill is passed?"

Isn't this marvellous? We're going to wait until this bill is through and then we're going to decide who the rent officer is going to be, the person who is going to administer this bill from which there is no appeal, because we're absolutely sure the government isn't going to support the amendment that's on the floor. We have a Minister of Housing who said on November 7 in answer to a question by Mr Tilson, the member for Dufferin-Peel, "Some of the matters that will be associated with the act I personally need to give more thought to."

**The Chair:** Order. Please speak to the amendment.

**Mrs Marland:** I am speaking to the amendment, because the amendment standing in the name of the Liberal caucus says:

"I move that subsection 1(1) of the bill, as amended by the general government committee, be amended by adding the following definition:

"'Board' means the Rent Review Appeals Board."

That is talking about the necessity, in the opinion of the mover of this motion, for an appeal process. I am arguing in favour of this amendment. When the minister says—and I would humbly and respectfully suggest that this amendment is a matter to do with the act—"Some of the matters that will be associated with the act I personally need to give more thought to"—this is the minister. I continue the quote, "I would not like to see us stop this work while I do more background study on some of the items which will come under administrative or regulatory provisions." So we are asked again, in the process we're in now, in committee of the whole and in particular with this amendment, to vote in favour of or against the amendments that come up this week in committee of the whole while the minister is saying she's still giving thought to this legislation.

1650

We know quite well that the minister is still giving thought to regulations. We know quite well that, when she says, "Some of the matters that will be associated with the act I personally need to give more thought to," she is not giving any thought to this amendment, because we know this socialist Bob Rae government does not want the public of Ontario to have the opportunity for its rights to be protected by an appeal process. This government has demonstrated already, as it will demonstrate again when it votes against this amendment, it will reconfirm again, as it did with Bill 143, that it totally disregards the rights of appeal for the people of this province on any subject. And when we're talking about Bill 121 and the need for an appeal process, how can we possibly have any faith in a minister who brings to this House a bill she is still giving thought to?

The irony is that there was no hurry for this bill. When this government brought in Bill 4, the idea behind that bill was that it could be an interim bill for a period of perhaps up to two years. Although I personally didn't sit in on the hearings on Bill 4—it was not my committee responsibility at that time—I certainly was aware of the concern of the public in this province on that bill. But it isn't as though the ideology of this socialist government isn't currently being represented without this amendment today. They're protected. They've got this terrible Bill 4 in place today.

So why would the minister bring in Bill 121 while she's still thinking about it? Why wouldn't she have taken the time to think about it and make sure that the bill was as complete as it could possibly be and address all their concerns so when they came to committee they could answer our questions? They could explain why they don't have an appeals board process any longer. They could explain to the people of this province why they think one person can decide their future on an issue as important and maybe as

representative of millions of dollars of expense as the rent officer is given the responsibility for.

At the same time they're denying an appeals process, they cannot assure us that the rent officer has the ability to do the job.

If we were to accept that without this amendment the rent officer "wizard" was so capable that he could do the job, let's look at the next step, because the next step is that in Ontario we have 1,318,000 rental units. Do you know, Mr Chair, that without this amendment, this minister thinks 110 rent officers can supervise the implementation and the enactment of this bill as it affects 1,318,000 rental units? I would suggest they surely do have to be some kind of a wizard to be able to do that kind of job.

The point is that without this amendment we fall back on the wizard only, and in so doing this minister is saying to those people who have to live in rental accommodation in Ontario: "I don't really care about you, because, in this wonderful Bill 121—I've got this wonderful bill here—I'm going to empower you as a tenant to apply for a rent reduction. Not only am I empowering you not to pay any rent increases; I'm going to empower you to apply for a rent reduction."

What she doesn't tell the poor tenants of this province is that she's only going to hire 110 wizards to interpret whether or not they're eligible for a rent reduction. What she doesn't tell the tenants of this province—except those who are already in a rent review process and know how long it takes; I have tenants in my riding who have been three years in the process of trying to appeal a rent increase—is that with this bill, where they would have no appeal process, they're going to have to wait for a hearing of one of those 110 rent officers.

If the minister wants to stand in the House today and tell us they're now going to hire 2,000 rent officers and maybe tell us a little bit more about what kind of prerequisite qualifications they're going to have and if they're going to be able to save money on behalf of the tenants and the property owners in this province from having to hire outside expertise when the rent officer sits and looks at the application for a rent increase or a rent decrease, then maybe she can correct what it is I've said.

What we're simply saying is that we can't see how this bill is going to work. From the very beginning we have argued that it is not in the interests of property owners and it is certainly not in the interests of nor is it fair to tenants of this province to mislead them with a piece of legislation that says, "You know, you can even get a rent decrease." Can you imagine how excited the tenants in this province would be to think they might be able to get their rent decreased? But when they go to the rent officer and the rent officer says, "Well, no, I don't think you should have a rent decrease," they say to that rent officer: "Is there somebody else I can ask? Is there somebody else to whom I can appeal your decision, Mr Rent Officer, Mr Wizard?"

**Mr Tilson:** No way.

**Mrs Marland:** The answer is, "No way," as the member for Dufferin-Peel says. The answer is: "I'm sorry, little tenant; it's just a game we're playing with you. We're

trying to prove that as a socialist government in Ontario—one of only three socialist governments left in the whole world now—“we care about you. We care about the tenants in this province.”

Even though the member for Yorkview went to a lot of lengths to tell us, through his marmalade version, stories of The Three Little Pigs and Robin Hood, we know whether or not this government cares about people who have to rent accommodation for their shelter in this province. Actually, if we were purely political and purely crass politicians, we probably shouldn't be arguing in favour of this amendment.

**Ms Poole:** On a point of order, Mr Chair: I am regretful that I can point out right now that there is no quorum in the House.

**The Chair:** I'll ask the table if there is a quorum.

**Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees:** A quorum is not present, Mr Chair.

The Chair ordered the bells rung.

1701

**The Chair:** A quorum is now present.

**Mrs Marland:** What I was saying is that when we look at whether or not we're going through a political game here, I guess if we were not trying to be as conscientious as we possibly could be for the people of this province, we really would just sit back and let this bill go through and let this Bob Rae socialist government hang itself on this piece of legislation, along with a few pieces that it has passed and we certainly hear it is going to be passing. But that's not the process that we're about. Certainly in the Progressive Conservative Party we're not about being crass politicians who wouldn't at least try to fight for the rights of the people in this province, and without this amendment, the people in this province do not have rights.

The irony is that if I get a speeding ticket on my way home on the Queen Elizabeth Way tonight and I decide to fight it and I go to court and the judge hearing my case agrees with the police officer that I was speeding and levies a fine because of my violation of the Highway Traffic Act, I have a right to appeal. If something as simple and, in the whole spirit of things, as unimportant compared to the rights of all the tenants in this province and the rights of all the property owners in this province—it is so wrong that all of those people, through this bill, will lose that right of appeal.

The fact is that this rent officer wizard is going to be in a position of saying whether or not an expenditure of a property owner is a capital expenditure eligible for certain rates of increase. This means that as a tenant I may appreciate having my building upgraded, repaired or improved in some way, and if I decide that's what I would like and I think there might be a fair cost to that and I would accept it as a fair increase in my rent, under this legislation, if the rent officer decides that expenditure is ineligible under the category for which the landlord is applying for an increase, then as a tenant I have no right of appeal and neither does the property owner.

It's simply a black-and-white case with this amendment of whether or not you believe in the process of justice. It is that simple. If you think one individual has the right to decide major financial expenditures on behalf of property owners or major expenses on the part of tenants who may be faced with major rent increases, if you think one individual should have the right to make that decision without any right of appeal, then I suggest that Bill 121, without this amendment, is simply putting this province back in the horse-and-buggy days.

We have come a long way in our history and in the years since Confederation, and now with this socialist government we are saying to the people of Ontario, “We don't care about normal rights of appeal as through a justice process.” I'm simply saying that it is an absolute must that this amendment be supported. I know quite well that the government, which does not want the rights of people in Ontario to be respected, will not support this amendment.

**The Chair:** Are there any further questions or comments on Ms Poole's amendment?

**Mr Tilson:** When you peruse the bill, the words “rent officer” are used extensively throughout many of the sections. The minister has said that this committee doesn't need to support this amendment, because we don't need a rent review appeals board. We don't need it, because what is being served by the rent officer is sufficient.

The rent officer is doing an astounding number of things—you could pick out almost any section throughout the bill—investigating as to whether there has been some negligence or improper maintenance or inadequate maintenance. Who knows whether she or he, the rent officer, even knows whether there has been inadequate maintenance or whether he or she even knows what those words mean. But they have a lot of absolute powers and they have a lot of rights, and to say that there's no need for a rent review appeals board I find a rather amazing statement.

The minister has said she doesn't appoint these rent review officers. Well, I'm sure she doesn't personally, but the ministry does. I don't know who else appoints them, and that's obvious. I'm going to ask a series of questions of the minister and I hope she will respond. Of course, she doesn't personally appoint them. She won't even know who a lot of them are—110—but her ministry does; they're civil servants. Again, she has given the impression that these people are going to be well trained and well qualified, and we will ask that question throughout the hearings: How are these people going to be trained? What are their qualifications? Who are these people going to be? I think now is the time that those questions be answered adequately.

The minister has said she's had time to consider matters. She will need more time to study them, and she says, nodding, as an introduction, that she has had time. I'm going to ask six questions of the minister with respect to the people who will be serving this bill rather than the rent review appeals officer. They will be doing the chores of not only those early investigating purposes but the appeal process. They will be in fact the judge and jury; they will be the people who will be laying the charges.

The first question is, what are the qualifications to be a rent review officer?

The second question is, what is the training process to be a rent review officer, who will be conducting many of the duties that are now performed by the rent review appeals board?

I'd like to know what the range of remuneration will be for these people. We need to know how much this is going to cost, because you're certainly suggesting that there's going to be some substantial cost. You're doing away with a whole board, a whole judicial process, so what are you going to pay these people? If they're going to be adequately trained, I hope you're going to adequately pay them. I'd like to know now in this House what the range of remuneration is going to be.

Who appoints them? The minister has said that she doesn't appoint them. Well, who is going to appoint them?

How can she assure this committee that the rent review officers will not be biased? Every once in while you read in the paper where judges are biased, where people, either actual judges or people in quasi-judicial positions, are biased—

**Mr Stockwell:** On a point of order, Mr Chair: The government is having difficulty reaching number 20. We don't have a quorum again.

**The Chair:** Would you please check if there is a quorum.

**Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees:** A quorum is not present, Chair.

The Chair ordered the bells rung.

1713

**Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees:** A quorum is now present, Chair.

**Mr Tilson:** I was just asking the fifth question, and that has to do with whether the minister can assure us that these rent officers will not be biased, because every once in a while people are biased. If you had a proper appeal process where decisions were being made on matters of fact—all other proceedings under all other pieces of legislation that I know of have an appeal process. Maybe the minister can tell me of some other processes where there is no appeal process. But when there are decisions of this magnitude where biased decisions are capable of being made—and I'm not saying they're going to be made left and right, but the fact is they can be made—will she assure us that biased decisions will not be made?

Finally, the suggestion has been made—it's been left with this committee and certainly the committee that originally heard it that there would only be 110 rent officers. The government has made allegations, particularly to the Liberal caucus, that its system was terrible. I happen to agree with them on that, but for other reasons. They've said that the system is terrible because it's been a quagmire, it's bogged down, it's come to a dead stop. How in the world are 110 rent officers going to solve the problem, the system the Liberal government created and that they say wasn't able to work? How are 110 people going to do that? If that information is wrong, would she clarify that

and tell us how many rent officers are going to be used in the system?

Those are six questions I hope the minister will respond to because I think they're most important questions before this committee can make any recommendations to the House.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** Mr Chair, very briefly, though I think you'll agree with me that this is really distending debate, Mr Tilson has asked for information which he received in committee, and I refer him to committee for details of training, selection, pay and so on of the rent officers. They will, as stated in the legislation, section 126, be appointed by the director of rent control. He will know that the hearings under this legislation will be held under the Statutory Powers Procedure Act and if there is bias, there's a possibility of judicial review.

**The Chair:** Are there any further questions or comments on Ms Poole's amendment?

**Mr Stockwell:** I think at the end of these debates that it's always important to discuss exactly what took place, and in dealing with this amendment, what took place in those days of August and September 1990. I'd like to ask the minister, because this amendment is very different, how far this government has drifted from the original promise that was made to the people of this province in August and September 1990. I speak of course of the Agenda for People. I would ask the minister, seeing as this amendment is before us today, the entire bill in fact, how it is that you've drifted so far from the Agenda for People, page 6, where you said very categorically:

"New Democrats would bring in rent control. That means one increase a year based on inflation. There would be no extra bonuses to landlords for capital or financing costs. It's simple, it's fair and it avoids the bureaucracy which has frustrated both tenants and small landlords."

**The Chair:** I'm afraid this is not a question that has to do with the amendment.

**Mr Stockwell:** Well, in a way it does.

**The Chair:** Perhaps the minister would like to reply.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** I was just going to suggest to you that in fact this has very little to do with the amendment in front of us.

**Mr Stockwell:** Mr Chair, I would say this is very pertinent, because in the Agenda for People it says very clearly, "It's simple, it's fair and it avoids the bureaucracy which has frustrated both tenants and small landlords." I've not heard the defence that this piece of legislation is simple, fair and supports both landlords and tenants. Were you making this up? Were you just not very bright on the campaign trail? I'd just like an answer. What has changed so distinctly from August 1990 to today?

**The Chair:** I'm afraid this question is totally out of order. Are there any other comments or questions?

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** I would ask the Minister of Housing if we can today have an absolute, ironclad assurance that these rent officers, the rent polizei, are not going to be populated with the children of NDP

MPPs, such as we are now seeing with the Workers' Compensation Board.

**The Chair:** I'm afraid that again this is a question not at all relevant to the amendment. Are there any further questions or comments on Ms Poole's amendment?

Interjections.

**The Chair:** The member for Yorkview, order, please. I will now pose the question.

Ms Poole has moved that subsection 1(1) of the bill, as amended by the general government committee, be amended by adding the following definition:

"'Board' means the Rent Review Appeals Board."

**Mrs Marland:** On a point of order, Mr Chair.

**The Chair:** You cannot raise a point of order when a question is being raised by the table.

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the "nays" have it.

Is there unanimous consent that the vote be stacked until the end or would you prefer to call in the members? Deferred until the completion of consideration of the bill.

Vote deferred.

**The Chair:** Ms Poole moves that the definition of "non-profit cooperative housing corporation" in subsection 1(1) of the bill, as amended by the general government committee, be amended by striking out "charter or by-laws" in the eighth and ninth lines and substituting "charter, bylaws or articles," and by striking out clause (b) and substituting the following:

"(b) On dissolution, its property after payment of its debts and liabilities shall be transferred to or distributed among one or more non-profit housing cooperatives or charitable organizations."

Minister, do you have any comments?

1720

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** Yes. We put forward the amendment in order to bring Bill 121 more in line with changes, which will be proposed through Bill 166, to the Co-operative Corporations Act. It will ensure that this legislation is consistent with that act as it will be amended.

**Ms Poole:** The Liberal Party will support this particular amendment since it is simply to ensure that all pieces of legislation are using the same definitions and the same criteria. I think it's very important that we have this type of consistency between and among different pieces of legislation.

**The Chair:** Any further questions or comments to the amendment? Shall the amendment carry?

Motion agreed to.

**The Chair:** We will now deal with Ms Poole's amendment.

Ms Poole moves that subsection 1(1) of the bill, as amended by the general government committee, be amended by adding the following definition:

"'Standards board' means the Residential Rental Standards Board."

**Ms Poole:** The Liberal caucus believes very firmly that the Residential Rental Standards Board, which existed under Bill 51, should not only be reinstated but in fact should be strengthened. I don't think there's any doubt that the concept of a standards board to ensure compliance with maintenance was an excellent concept. What it did was take equal representation from tenants and landlords from the board, and they would look at work orders and they would monitor compliance and they would reach decisions as to whether this should be taken a final step and a rent penalty should be imposed against the landlord because the maintenance had not been kept up to the necessary standards.

But there was one problem with the rental standards board as it existed under Bill 51, that is, that it did not have the jurisdiction to make the final determination, that after it had done its initial investigation and determined the findings in the matter, then the case would be sent to rent review for rent review to take a look at. Unfortunately this is where the delay occurred: It got caught up in the rent review backlog, and therefore the orders were not processed in a very timely manner.

What the government has said is: "Yes, this was a problem. Therefore, we will disband the standards board and we will then put the whole thing, all of maintenance, compliance and monitoring, into rent review." It would seem to me that this is like putting the cat among the pigeons. You've said that rent review caused the initial problem because of the backlog and the length of time it took to go through it, so you then disband the standards board and give the entire thing to rent review? It doesn't make a lot of sense to me. I think you will find that tenants and landlords agreed on this as well.

Amazing, isn't it, that two of the things we've talked about so far today tenants and landlords were in substantial agreement about? Many tenant groups have also called for the reinstatement of the standards board, not necessarily in the identical way it was under Bill 51, but indeed to even strengthen the jurisdiction, mandate and powers of the Residential Rental Standards Board and to make it even more effective than it was and as effective as it could be.

In the standards board right now we have a number of people who have gathered an extensive body of knowledge about the maintenance field, about compliance, about how work orders work and about how municipalities cooperate with the province. Once this board is disbanded, that body of knowledge will be lost. Everything will become mired in the rent review system and no more will we be able to rely on a body such as the standards board to give impartial decisions, decisions that have been approved by tenant and landlord representatives.

I don't want to belabour this particular amendment, although I think it is a very important one. We did have a full debate at committee about it, but I do hope the government will reconsider its decision to disband this very worthy and very effective board and that it will put its compliance, its maintenance review decisions and its rent penalty decisions, because of inadequate maintenance, back where they should be, with an independent board that will not get mired in any backlogs at rent review, but instead

will give these types of issues the full and important attention they deserve.

**The Chair:** Are there any further questions or comments to Ms Poole's amendment?

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** We will not be supporting the amendment put forward by Ms Poole. We have, as she pointed out, incorporated elements related to the maintenance and the upkeep of apartments within the bill itself, without necessitating the operation of a separate board such as the Residential Rental Standards Board.

What we have said is that landlords will not be eligible for rent increases if there are outstanding work orders. We have provided within the bill a fairly simple mechanism for outstanding work orders to be given by municipalities to the rent offices so that any application for an increase in rent will be stopped by the existence of an outstanding rent order. We have also provided that where a tenant makes an application and that application is found to be accurate, that there is inadequate maintenance, the tenant makes the application as an application for a rent decrease. So we've incorporated within the body of the legislation and directly through the rent offices dealings with maintenance.

**Ms Poole:** There was one item I omitted to discuss when we were talking about our amendment to reinstate the standards board and that's the impact on northern communities and some of the more isolated communities across Ontario where municipalities do not necessarily have strong maintenance bylaws and property standards.

When we were in Sudbury, we were privileged to hear in the committee hearings a presentation by I believe it was the Muskoka Legal Clinic, and it was its very strong recommendation that the standards board be reinstated. They said the standards board was particularly beneficial in communities like theirs, where there was no history of property standards that had been brought in by municipalities and where they relied on the standards board to set the tone. In fact, they were quite convinced the rent review system could not do as fine a job as the standards board.

1730

Not all municipalities are as progressive as those in my own community and in the city of Toronto, where we have a very strong system of property standards and municipal bylaws to deal with the issues of maintenance. Not all communities are that fortunate. So I think it is particularly important to have a standards board, which will deal with those other jurisdictions, that will give them guidance and direction and that will provide assistance to those communities.

The second item I'd like to address is the fact that by putting the property standard compliance into the rent review system, instead of retaining the standards board the government has chosen the bureaucratic way. Instead of going to a system where it encourages landlords and tenants to work together, they've gone the opposite route to a system which is going to drive them apart.

I think that was one of the things I liked best about the standards board: You had tenant representatives and landlord representatives sitting together in the same room,

coming to consensus on issues and making sure they were fair and impartial and that they dealt with the problem.

I find it quite ironic that instead of strengthening that board and strengthening that concept we have gone the opposite route. I find it personally quite distressing that we would seek to drive more wedges between tenants and landlords rather than trying to solve the problem. I guess it appears inevitable that the ministry has not reconsidered its position on this particular amendment. I think in later years they will come to regret the loss of the standards board.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** In response to one of the issues raised by Ms Poole, the situation of tenants and landlords in municipalities where there is not a high level of property standards enforcement, the provincial standard will be applicable and the rent control office for the area can call upon provincial assistance in the form of property standards officers who will be retained on a part-time basis to make sure that property standards are maintained.

**Ms Poole:** I thank the minister for bringing that to the House's attention, but of course I was aware that the province sets the standards where municipalities choose not to, and I can tell you that the Muskoka Legal Clinic was equally aware that the province had jurisdiction and a mandate to step in, in its particular community, where the municipality had not set those compliance standards.

That is not the issue. What the Muskoka Legal Clinic said was that the standards board did a job far superior to provincial inspectors or anybody else who would be brought in through a rent review system and that it felt the standards board was extremely effective.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** That's certainly not my opinion. I should point out to Ms Poole that what the Muskoka Legal Clinic was dealing with was experience under the Liberal government.

**Ms Poole:** I hadn't intended to belabour this issue, but obviously the Muskoka Legal Clinic's experience with the standards board under the Liberal government was very positive, because it was calling for its reinstatement.

**The Chair:** Ms Poole moves that subsection 1(1) of the bill, as amended by the general government committee, be amended by adding the following definition:

"'Standards board' means the Residential Rental Standards Board."

Is it the pleasure of the committee that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Vote deferred.

Section 2 agreed to.

Section 3:

**The Chair:** We have an amendment brought by Ms Poole.

**Ms Poole:** I had tabled with the House an amendment where I moved that clause 3(1)(e) of the bill, as amended by the general government committee, be amended by adding at the end "as prescribed."

Since that time I have talked with the policy director and she is quite convinced that paragraph 135(1)47 of the bill does give the ministry the power right now to prescribe definitions to the legislation and to further elaborate on it. So I will withdraw this clause at this time, since it appears it is dealt with elsewhere in the bill.

Section 3 agreed to.

Sections 4 to 6, inclusive, agreed to.

Section 7:

**The Chair:** Ms Gigantes moves that subsection 7(3) of the bill, as amended by the general government committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Idem

"(3) If, at any time before the notice is given, an order has been made under this act increasing the maximum rent for a rental unit by more than the guideline, the notice shall include information setting out the total cost for the residential complex for each of municipal taxes, heat, hydro and water for two consecutive years, as prescribed.

"Exception

"(3.1) Subsection (3) does not apply if the date of increase set out in the notice is before the day that is 12 months after the first effective date of the first order under this act that increases the maximum rent for a rental unit in the residential complex by more than the guideline."

Minister, do you have any comments?

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** Yes, Mr Chair. You will be glad to know that, given amendments of this nature, when the legislation is passed we will be preparing very fine and reader-friendly materials which can be used by landlords and tenants in Ontario. This amendment requires cost information for two consecutive years, as prescribed, and provides a bit more flexibility than the existing provision in section 7, which says that the cost information has to be given for two calendar years preceding the rent increase date.

Subsection 7(3.1) clarifies that a landlord doesn't have to provide cost information in notices of rent increase effective within the 12-month period for which the order has determined the maximum rent.

The cost information would relate to time periods already dealt with in the order and so it couldn't be used by the tenant to bring a rent reduction application based on a decrease in extraordinary operating costs. This could cause confusion, as you can easily see, Mr Chair. However, this exception only applies to the first order made under the bill. After that the landlord will always have to provide cost information with notices of rent increase.

1740

**The Chair:** Are there any further questions or comments to Ms Gigantes's amendment?

Motion agreed to.

Section 7, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 8 to 11, inclusive, agreed to.

Section 12:

**The Chair:** Ms Poole moves that paragraphs 3 and 4 of subsection 12(1) of the bill, as amended by the general

government committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"3. The part of the guideline allocated to eligible capital expenditures is equal to 1%.

"4. The part of the guideline allocated to additional operating and capital costs not otherwise covered by the guideline is equal to 1%.

"5. The guideline is the sum of the amounts determined under paragraphs 2, 3 and 4."

Are there any comments, amendments or questions?

**Ms Poole:** Yes. As the act exists in its present form, paragraph 12(1)3 states, "The part of the guideline allocated to capital expenditures is equal to 2%." It does not define in that paragraph that it is eligible capital expenditures, it just says "capital expenditures." It's my understanding that it does refer to eligible capital expenditures under section 15.

The minister is shaking her head and saying no at that. Could I just ask for a clarification?

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** In that section, it doesn't refer to eligible or ineligible or anything; it is just called "capital." It's available for capital. It's the further application of the 2% that is raised in question by this amendment.

**Ms Poole:** If I could ask for a further clarification, when a landlord has an application in the rent system where the landlord has applied for capital expenditures up to a maximum of 3%, the act right now, to the best of my knowledge, requires that the landlord has to justify that the 2% from the guideline has been spent on eligible capital expenditures. The minister is nodding her head yes, let the record show.

Because that section refers to this 2%, and for that purpose it has to be eligible capital expenditures, that means that when a landlord goes for a rent increase the fact that he has painted the corridors, for instance, or does that kind of capital expenditure doesn't count. The landlord has to do major capital work which is deemed eligible under section 15.

The problem we encounter here is that for a landlord who's going to do major capital expenditures there is absolutely no incentive to make sure some of that minor work gets done. I gave you one example of painting hallway corridors or painting the lobby, that type of thing. There are other operating costs that were covered in the guideline under Bill 51 that are not covered in the guideline formula under this legislation. For instance, if you look at the superintendent costs, some of those have changed from the previous formula.

The purpose of this amendment is to say that capital in the guideline should be divided into two categories. One is for eligible capital expenditures. That's if you did want to repair the roof, put in energy conservation or do something that qualifies under this act for reimbursement. The other section is 1% where the landlord can do some of those minor repairs that aren't covered, such as painting the corridors.

This means it would be far more of an incentive to actually do some of the minor repairs. If when the landlord makes an application for some of the major repairs later on he's told, "The fact that you did all these minor repairs is

irrelevant. That doesn't count because when we're deducting that 2% we're going to deduct it if you haven't done 2% worth of major repairs," this would act as a disincentive for the landlord to do those minor repairs and keep the building in good working order.

There are many things that do not fall under the category of eligible capital expenditures that nevertheless tenants want done. They're the things that keep the apartment building looking nice. It's not the fact that the apartment building will fall down structurally if they're not done; it's just that those things make their place a little more of a home, and a well-kept home at that.

So we have felt that by giving the landlord an incentive and saying, "Do these minor repairs and you won't be penalized for it later in a rent application by their saying, 'Well, sorry, we're only going to consider the major repairs,'" this is a much better way to look at it. Then when that landlord goes to rent review or, as the minister would like to call it, rent control with a rent increase application for capital expenditures, the landlord would not be penalized by the 2% deduction but the 1% allocated in the guideline for eligible capital.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** That explanation really does credit to the amendment, because it shows how confused one can get once one moves off the principles involved in the bill. In this bill we've set a guideline. We've said that if a landlord is going to get any moneys beyond the guideline, the landlord can only apply for what are called eligible capital expenditures. It names those. They relate to the physical integrity of the residential unit. They relate to compliance with municipal or provincial standards related to health and safety or to protect the environment. This is all under section 15. They relate to the maintenance of plumbing, heating, mechanical, electrical, ventilation or air-conditioning systems. They relate, 15(2)(d), to changes that produce access for persons with disabilities or, 15(2)(e), an investment in energy conservation measures. Those are the only grounds for which a landlord can apply for an above-guideline increase, and that's the way we think it should be.

1750

Further, what we are saying is that when a landlord makes such an application, the landlord should have to justify the 2% that is already in the guideline for maintenance and capital. That guideline reflects operating costs that are real, that reflect real averages out there in apartment buildings and in the operation of apartment buildings. That guideline adds in another 2% and says that is specifically for the ongoing upkeep of the building, the kind of thing Ms Poole was referring to. What the bill says quite clearly, and we intend to stick to it, is that if the landlord goes for an above-guideline increase, the landlord's going to have to first justify the expenditures of that 2% within the guideline and justify them along the same lines as I've just cited in section 15.

In other words, the landlord is not going to be able to come in for an above-guideline increase, however worthy the purpose the landlord associates with the undertaking he or she will do with that above-guideline money, and have

spent the 2% in the guideline on something that wasn't necessary. That just doesn't wash.

We are saying that 2% is going to have to be included. It's not going to be changed the way Ms Poole is suggesting so in fact the landlord would only have to justify 1% when there was an above-guideline application. That's the way we think is fair and that's the way we want to see it stay.

**Ms Poole:** I regret having to correct the minister about her own legislation, but she said that the 2% in the guideline was for maintenance and capital. The 2% is not for maintenance and capital.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** Whatever.

**Ms Poole:** She says "Whatever." I will read what the existing act says: "The part of the guideline allocated to capital expenditures is equal to 2%."

The minister fails to see the tie-in, but there is a tie-in. When a landlord does major capital repairs and goes to rent review for an order increasing the rent, the landlord at that stage must justify that the 2% in the guideline has been spent on eligible capital repairs. So when she talks about minor maintenance and ongoing repairs and ongoing upkeep and painting the hallways, Madam Minister, that is not what that 2% is for when the landlord has to justify it.

I am most familiar with the list of eligible capital repairs, because they have a marked similarity to the amendment the Liberals placed in Bill 4, if we can all remember that far back, almost a year and a half ago. That's what we suggested under Bill 4 and the ministry has incorporated our definitions into this bill, which is very good. I think the list of necessary capital repairs is very good, and the minister is very pleased that I'm agreeing with her.

Where I disagree with the minister is the impact of this 2% in the guideline. She's saying, "Well, it's 2% and landlords can go ahead and spend it on whatever." In fact they can do that, but if they are applying for an above-guideline capital repairs increase, they cannot. They will have to have shown that they spent it on major capital, on the eligible capital repairs in section 15. I say to the minister that is the tie-in.

You may feel, Minister, that this particular section does not prove a disincentive, but I can tell you that it will, because any landlord who is going to put in energy conservation measures, let's say new Thermopane windows that meet all the tests of energy conservation, is going to spend that 2% on major capital and not on the ongoing maintenance, upkeep and day-to-day minor repairs that have to be done.

The minister's getting some assistance. She's getting a note that will tell her what to say and how to say it. But the fact of the matter is that there's a direct tie-in between this section and what later happens with the eligible capital repairs when a landlord goes to rent review.

If you want landlords to do those major repairs, then you're going to have to be very sensitive in this particular section that you are not penalizing them with that deduction. Without this amendment, the Liberal amendment later on—with all these wonderfully simplified pieces of legislation the actual subsection our amendment now refers to

is subsection 20(3), which talks about a reduction of 1% when the landlord takes those eligible capital repairs to rent review.

So there's a definite tie-in. We can't do one without the other. I think what you want to do, Madam Minister, is encourage landlords to keep up with those day-to-day repairs and those small maintenance items: the painting and all that type of thing that must go on in an apartment building in order to keep it in good repair. What I say to you is that as long as you tie that 2% in to a deduction from the landlord when he applies you are not going to provide an incentive to get the minor stuff done, let alone the major stuff.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** This is a wonderful train of argument. Let's start out again with what the guideline is. The guideline is composed of an index which reflects both the increases and the weights in costs that are met by landlords across Ontario. It reflects the reality of those costs. It includes superintendents' costs, it includes maintenance costs, it includes painting costs, heating costs, hydro costs. It includes all those costs that go on in apartment buildings. That's in the guideline.

We take that and then we add in 2%. Then when the landlord wants more than the guideline, which is that inflation-weighted element plus the 2%—there's your guideline—Ms Poole tells us the landlord should not have to justify having spent the 2% on something serious. I think that is wrong. I don't think that's fair. I think it's fair for

the landlord to have to justify the 2% that was in the guideline for precisely major kinds of things.

We don't want landlords coming to us every time they want to do something. That's why we set a reasonable guideline. If we had a system where the guideline was so low and landlords couldn't breathe—that hasn't been the experience, by the way, with a guideline composed exactly the same way as the one in this bill; the experience has been that 17% of landlords will make an application in a given year. If we wanted a complex system, we'd get that guideline way down there and then every landlord who wanted to wave a paint brush at something would have to come in and ask for an above-guideline increase.

We haven't done that. We've set a reasonable guideline. Within that guideline is 2%, which is a very nice bit of elbow-room for landlords, on top of the inflationary part. We say that if a landlord wants more than that in a given year or for a given piece of work over three years, which we allow, the landlord is going to have to explain that the 2% within the guideline was spent on something necessary. I think that's fair.

**The Chair:** Minister, it may be appropriate now to move that the committee rise and report.

On motion by Ms Gigantes, the committee of the whole reported progress.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** It being 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned at 1801.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber Etobicoke-Rexdale	Henderson, D. James Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	L ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest Fort William Fort York	Stockwell, Chris McLeod, Lyn Marchese, Rosario	PC L ND	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey Guelph	Murdoch, Bill Fletcher, Derek	PC ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre Halton North/-Nord	Sullivan, Barbara Duignan, Noel	L ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est Hamilton Mountain	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Miclash, Frank Wilson, Gary	L ND	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener Kitchener-Wilmot	Ferguson, Will Cooper, Mike	ND ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew Lawrence	Jordan, W. Leo Cordiano, Joseph	PC L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaitre, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessinger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	<b>Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	<b>Cooke, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiles, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	<b>Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

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D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Miclash, Bill Murdoch,  
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Ron Hansen, W. Leo Jordan, Gord Mills, Tony Ruprecht, John Sola,  
Kimble Sutherland, Jim Wilson  
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

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Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Daniel Waters  
Members/Membres: Sean G. Conway, George Dadamo, Bob Huget,  
W. Leo Jordan, Paul Klopp, Dalton J.P. McGuinty, Sharon Murdoch,  
Steven Offer, David Turnbull, Len Wood  
Clerk/Greffier: Harold Brown

#### **Social development/Affaires sociales**

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Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler  
Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin,  
Irene Mathysen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White,  
Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer  
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

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Co-Chair/Coprésident: Noel Duignan  
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Kimble Sutherland  
Clerk/Greffier: Smirle Forsyth





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Nº 27

ISSN 1180-2987

## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

## Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Thursday 28 May 1992

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

## Journal des débats (Hansard)

Jeudi 28 mai 1992

Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday 28 May 1992

The House met at 1000.

Prayers.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

#### REPRESENTATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

#### LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LA REPRÉSENTATION ÉLECTORALE

Mr Murdoch (Grey) moved second reading of Bill 9, An Act to amend the Representation Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la représentation électorale.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Mr Grey moves second reading of Bill 9, An Act to amend the Representation Act. Pursuant to standing order 94(c)(i), the honourable member has 10 minutes for his presentation. The member for Grey.

**Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey):** Mr Speaker, maybe we should start off with my name being Mr Murdoch and not Mr Grey. We might want to get the record straight on that.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I apologize profusely.

**Mr Murdoch:** That's fine. It changes from time to time.

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** You wanted a name change.

**Mr Murdoch:** Yes.

I am pleased to be able to rise today and explain to this House why I wish to debate my bill, An Act to amend the Representation Act, which would change the name of my riding from Grey to Grey-Owen Sound.

This legislation is very important to me and to my community. As most members know, I am very proud of my corner of Ontario and I think the name of my riding should accurately reflect its makeup. The name "Grey" implies the county of Grey, which is largely rural and is made of the townships of Artemesia, Bentinck, Collingwood, Derby, Egremont, Euphrasia, Glenelg, Holland, Keppel, Normandy, Osprey, Proton, St Vincent, Sarawak, Sullivan and my home, Sydenham. As well, we are proud to have the rural towns of Durham, Hanover, Meaford and Thornbury and the villages of Chatsworth, Dundalk, Flesherton, Markdale, Neustadt and Shallow Lake.

But, as any member who has visited Grey will know, the county is mostly wide-open spaces. The towns and villages I have mentioned are bustling and full of life but they are not large. They reflect all the warmth and friendliness and honest, straightforward values and thinking for which rural Ontario is prized. But I have an urban component to my riding too, which is not reflected in the name. I would like to see that corrected through this bill.

The city of Owen Sound, which is named for the body of water it sits on, has more than 20,000 residents. It is a true city which embodies everything that is good in urban life. We have a small manufacturing base. We have the

Grey Bruce Regional Health Centre, which serves the counties of Grey and Bruce. We have the Tom Thompson Memorial Gallery, which we're proud of. We have the County of Grey Owen Sound Museum. We have the Owen Sound Little Theatre. We also have the Owen Sound Billy Bishop regional airport, which has just been built in the last year. We have the Grey-Bruce Arts Council, the Georgian Bay Folk Society and many Canadian and Ontario championship sports teams, as well as the World Highland Dance Troupe and School. As you can see, it is a city in itself.

My riding is very diverse. We have the best of both worlds, rural and urban. The rural area relies on agriculture which supports dairy, beef, pork and sheep farmers, as well as a healthy apple industry which produces some of the finest fruit in Ontario. We also have a four-season tourist area that features great skiing, beautiful walking trails, clean water and beaches and good fishing.

One of the loveliest areas in the province is in my riding—the Niagara Escarpment. I feel very strongly we should preserve its natural beauty for future generations. But we also have an urban centre with all the cultural, entertainment and sporting attractions that are part and parcel of city life and I feel this very important area in my riding should be equally recognized.

My riding wants this change. I have here a resolution passed by the city of Owen Sound and a letter from the county of Grey which supports it. The motion city council adopted reads as follows:

"Whereas the city of Owen Sound is predominantly a regional centre within the county of Grey and houses the county of Grey administrative offices; and

"Whereas the city of Owen Sound feels the name of the city should be added to the name of the provincial riding;

"Now therefore be it hereby resolved that the council of the corporation of the city of Owen Sound respectfully requests Bill Murdoch, MPP, Grey riding, to introduce a private member's bill to have the name of the Grey riding changed to 'Grey-Owen Sound' riding."

The name "Grey-Owen Sound" is already used by many organizations in the riding. Looking through my local phone book, one can find the name several times. We have the Grey-Owen Sound Museum, Grey-Owen Sound Social and Family Services, the Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound Health Unit and the Grey-Owen Sound Centre Nursery, to name a few. So people are already familiar with this name and find it a more accurate way to identify themselves.

Members will know there is a precedent for changing the name of a riding at a time other than during redistribution. Most recently, my colleague Noble Villeneuve, the member for Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry and East Grenville, had similar legislation passed in the last session. This change was important to him and his constituents. As was pointed out at that time in this House, every member

recognizes the significance of his or her own electoral district and that the name should reflect the geographical area of the riding he or she represents. I want no more for Grey and Owen Sound. I eagerly await the comments of my colleagues from the other two parties and I hope they will be able to support me in this endeavour.

As I pointed out, the county of Grey and the city of Owen Sound are two different municipalities. The city of Owen Sound is a separate city and is not joined with Grey other than in the services they provide for each other. This has been going on for many years. Both Grey and Owen Sound have shared different facilities. The people from Owen Sound use the facilities out in the country and the people in the country go into Owen Sound and use its facilities, yet they remain two different municipalities. This is one of the main reasons I feel we should recognize the city of Owen Sound in the riding change. I've talked to many people in my riding, those in Hanover and Meaford, who have a small urban centre but are still part of Grey county, and they find no fault with this. They think this would be a good idea.

When people want to come to our area, be it for tourism or to move an industry there, we'd like them to realize that when you say you're from Grey-Owen Sound, you have an urban setting along with a rural setting and you can get the best of both worlds.

Also, as I pointed out, we are very fortunate to have a four-season tourist area. Again, as I said, we have the best skiing in Ontario and some of the cleanest beaches and water you can find anywhere. The fishing derby we have attracts many tourists to our area. They'll go fishing out in the rural part of my riding, but a lot of them will stay and enjoy the entertainment and things they can find in the city at night and the fine restaurants and places where they can eat.

The people in my riding have asked for this to be changed. I think it's a good idea and I hope the rest of the people in this House will agree with me and, when the time comes, vote for it. I will wrap up at a later date.

1010

**Mr Paul Klopp (Huron):** I rise today to give support to the member for Grey in his request to change his riding from Grey to Grey-Owen Sound. The riding of Huron was named because, as many know, it's along the shore of Lake Huron. As the member pointed out, he has two different, distinct areas. He has a large urban centre and a mixture of smaller towns and hamlets. In the riding of Huron we have 16 townships. In fact, one of our townships is named Grey, I think in recognition of the history, and probably they felt proud to name a township that way. But we also have towns, Exeter, Seaforth, Hensall, Goderich, Wingham and Clinton, and many police villages and small hamlets. However, we have no big cities. If I can say so, I think we have the perfect mixture of all worlds.

As the member for Grey pointed out in his remarks, many times we do not have a choice of constituency lines. I think of the riding of Huron, which over my short time in this world has been Huron-Bruce and Huron-Middlesex. Then it reverted back to the riding now of Huron, which is

just the straight county, which I, as a long-time resident of Huron county, find very easy to take. I believe we have no need to change our name.

However, we have to recognize that places like Grey and Owen Sound need to be recognized. As the council of Owen Sound has pointed out, it's important for its economic wellbeing and just the pride it needs to have. I respect that.

I also would like to say, if I may say it in a light way, that when we were up there playing hockey I was thinking that the member maybe wanted to change it to the Murdoch riding. But he is a more honourable member and realizes he is only the servant. He will have his name written somewhere else, I'm sure. It won't be in any hockey logs, I can assure you of that.

Anyway, I know the member is proud of his riding. For him to go and promote the idea that he would like it changed to Grey-Owen Sound, he does that with respect. As he pointed out, the councils, towns and villages all have used the name Grey-Owen Sound from time to time, so it seems like only a logical step. For that I firmly believe he is doing the right thing. From what I've met of the honourable member he is one who stands up for his riding, although sometimes we disagree. But then when it comes to our own individual ridings we fight for them, because that's our duty here. The mix comes out in policy, in whatever we do.

I have had the privilege of being in the member's riding a number of times. I mentioned a minute ago that we were up playing hockey this winter. The scenery in his riding is truly spectacular. I can only compare it somewhat to the foothills of the Beaver Valley area, for example. I have a bit of a comparison when I'm in Alberta, for example, at the foothills. You can go from my riding two and a half hours later and go to his and ski. We are very fortunate in our neck of the woods to be able to go skiing, come to Lake Huron's shores, beautiful sandy beaches in the summer and the warm waters of Lake Huron. As a farmer, I've told a lot of people: "We don't need to have a cottage. We're already in heaven."

In short, I think it's a good motion. The Grey and Owen Sound populations respect it. As the member pointed out, it's been in the telephone book under many things. My colleague from the riding of Lambton has mentioned that many times they use Sarnia-Lambton as names to coincide to give recognition. I don't believe they're changing their name, because Sarnia, as you know, has its own riding, so there's no need to change constituency lines in our books here. But lines are naturally drawn, and to have it recognized in this House I think is an honour for that area and an honour that this member is doing this at this time. I fully support it and wish him luck.

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** I just came back from Owen Sound. Having examined the way of the world in the great city to the north and partly to the south of my riding—as you know, the riding of Bruce—do I have to name all the towns and everything in Bruce as the member for Huron named his and the member for Grey named his?

We can go through that, but may I say it's my pleasure to rise today. Although the issue in front of us is quite

similar in many ways to that of our colleague the member for S-D-G & East Grenville, a gentlemen to whose bill I also spoke, the change of name is an interesting request because, as I said during the debate with respect to that gentleman's bill, it means there is a movement on from what has taken place in the past.

Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, as it was then known under the care of the deceased Osie Villeneuve, was a well-known name in the annals of this particular place. When people spoke about eastern Ontario's agricultural centres it was not uncommon to think of Osie Villeneuve in his role as dean, as he was when I came to this place, of this Legislature. His often brief but incisive contributions to our debates were well known, and you could go to the heading under the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry for some interesting words.

The same occurs to me today as we rise to talk about the change of name of this particular riding from Grey to Grey-Owen Sound. For instance, I recall with some very happy recollections the time when the member for Grey-Bruce, the honourable—honourable? he certainly was honourable—Eddie Sargent, was the member. He happened to be a Liberal, but he was there representing Grey-Bruce and he represented many of the towns and places the member currently from Grey has enumerated. Mr Sargent also represented parts of the riding of Bruce, particularly the—I don't know how you'd describe it. I represented sort of a southern triangular portion of Bruce in the days of Huron-Bruce and Eddie represented the rest of the county. He represented Grey county as well except Owen Sound and part of Grey county.

The interesting thing about Mr Sargent was that, while he lived in Owen Sound, it didn't matter to Eddie what the name of his riding was. It didn't matter to the people in the riding of Grey-Bruce what the name of their riding was because they knew they were well taken care of by Eddie Sargent, a man with whom all of us have associated good times, good sense and, I might say, probably the most interesting practical joke ever played on a Speaker in this House. Everybody will have recalled the story of the helicopter, but for those who can't remember it is reported well in Hansard and can be dug out for your edification.

There happens to have been as well a member from Grey riding, Bob McKessock, here in 1981 when I arrived. Mr McKessock had replaced a very powerful and diligent local member for Grey, the honourable Eric Winkler, in 1975. The interesting thing about Mr McKessock and Mr Winkler was that it did not matter much to them what the name of their riding was and it did not matter much to them what the names of their constituents were: They represented them all. They represented them whether they came from Hanover, Durham or any place within the bounds of that riding. The name was not important, but the area was extremely important, and the diligence with which they pursued their mandate of representing the individual constituent, some of whom didn't vote for each of those members just named, was an amazing record for those of us who have followed them.

1020

We haven't forgotten about Ron Lipsett, who was the previous member from the Grey riding. Mr Lipsett defeated the then up-and-coming Bill Murdoch in 1987 and was himself then defeated by the current member for Grey in 1990. The interesting thing about Mr Lipsett was that he was not concerned with the name of the constituency, but he was concerned with the problems of his constituents on a daily basis and worked very hard and diligently in respect of meeting those needs.

The member for Grey, as it is now known, and I'm not sure exactly what the outcome of the debate or vote will be this morning, has taken some examples and some lead from those people who have been there. It has never mattered to a member of this Legislative Assembly what we called ourselves—heaven knows we get called enough things by other people—or what the riding names are called. Our true test of ability and of relevance is still the way in which we meet the needs of our constituents.

That's a long preamble, Mr Speaker, to let you know that I am not so concerned as to what we call our constituencies. I know it's important that Owen Sound be recognized. Owen Sound is a great place. I know the mayor, an interesting fellow and, some might say, a kindred spirit. I would say there will be days when we will share some common debate times with him. But I likewise am a person who admires the abilities that are shown by the people of Hanover, the people of Markdale, of Thornbury, of all over the great Grey riding, so for me, if the member for Grey wishes to change the historic name of the riding of Grey to Grey-Owen Sound, that is fine by me.

But I wish to remind us all that here are some of the issues that affect the people of Grey, as they affect the people of Bruce and, I dare say, even the people of Huron, some of whom I represented at one time in this House. Where are our transportation links? Heaven knows Eddie Sargent was pressing, for long days, to have a four-lane highway come up into our part of the country. Anybody who, as I have just done, has tried to go from Toronto to any part of Bruce or some parts of Grey in less than three hours, leaving at 3:30 in the afternoon, will know it is impossible, whether or not you end up having all the cooperation that is required of the police services throughout this province. There is no direct route into our part of the province.

So our need, of people who come from Huron, Bruce, Grey and, I might even say, from Simcoe—and even to a certain extent of the member for Wellington, because his riding comes right next to ours—is access to the markets to make it reasonable for our people to supply at a reasonable price the materials which we produce. We need a sense that we have not been forgotten. There are days when we do believe we have been forgotten in our part of the country, because all of the things that determine the services to be provided in our areas are stacked against rural Ontario.

None of the statistics will be able to be meted out that will allow our roads to receive upgrading, because the days when they measure the traffic on our roads are the days other than the busiest times of the year, which are in

the spring, when we have all the haulage for our growing and very vital agricultural sector; for our tourism sector—they don't measure many of those numbers on the weekends.

We don't get the extra that is required to maintain the open yards of the Ministry of Transportation in Tobermory, Elsinore and Walkerton when it comes to having enough work to be done on the roads to clear them in the winter. As you know, the Minister of Transportation just shut down those three Ministry of Transportation yards.

We don't have enough things happening in our area for the federal government—excuse me, Canada Post—to think we should have open post offices any more. We don't have enough in our part of southwestern Ontario to allow the railroads to continue to run. It is not just the provincial government that refuses or fails to see all the needs we have. The provincial government, the federal government and organizations that are crown corporations, which are in my view just extensions of both those levels of government, are not providing us with the same level of service.

So members like Mr Lipsett, Mr Sargent and Mr McKessock spent long days representing those types of issues to the people. I might say as well that Eric Winkler, in his day here, a very powerful man and a very compassionate man, a man I know fairly well and whose health, I hope, is improving—Eric, if you're watching the debate, I hope you're feeling better today—spent a lot of time trying to elevate the status of southwestern Ontario, the Grey, Bruce and Huron areas—particularly Grey, I might add—in the eyes of the provincial authorities so that we could receive some benefits that would allow us to progress along with the rest of the province.

The members I mentioned—Lipsett, Sargent and McKessock—spent their time pursuing that. Those needs are still there. Whatever we call the riding, Grey or Grey-Owen Sound, the member will have to know he must pursue—or she, because of course the great tradition of the Grey riding has been the offering to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario of our first female member. Who can forget Agnes Macphail, another great tradition, a tradition my friends opposite would, I'm sure, have more familiarity with than some of us Liberals and Tories? I can tell you, though, that you probably don't know all that much more about her, because we have a tremendous pride in the ground-breaking traditions that have been established in the great ridings of our part of the country.

What have I heard today, and what is the member going to do, I must ask, about the current situation with development in Grey county? We have heard for a long time about—in fact, Mr Winkler heard much about it; Mr McKessock benefited from it in some ways—the Niagara Escarpment Commission. While we speak about changing the name, what, my friends, are we to hear of the representations of the member for Grey-Owen Sound, or Grey, with respect to this important issue?

What about the issues this man must pursue with respect to the Sewell commission? For those of us in rural Ontario, the issue first raised by Mr Sewell, where he would not allow septic systems to be used for disposition

of sewage, means a virtual halt to any development, any opportunity for us as a rural part of the country to continue to grow. If you don't grow, and if you don't get transfers from the government at a municipal level, then you are virtually done. I know the member for Grey will be rising to talk about the issues as opposed to just naming the towns, but those are two more issues that are important.

What about the change this new government of ours has brought forward with respect to tree cutting? In Bruce county we've had tree-cutting bylaws all over for a long time that regulate the cutting of trees, but now it is going to be required, not only in Bruce but also in Grey and Huron and every place else, that someone from the Ministry of Natural Resources approve every tree to be cut by those people who have been in the business of husbanding their forest resources.

For instance, the farm I grew up on, on the 2nd Concession of Morris, indeed in the riding of Huron, has had on it for a number of years an extended woodlot which has provided for our family, since we first settled there in the 1850s, the produce to build barns, outbuildings and indeed houses. In fact, as a young boy I was there cutting trees with my father and helping to insert the stringers in the bents which had deteriorated, but we did it by choosing the correct trees and husbanding that forestry resource. Now we're being told that the farm people of this great province cannot do that on their own, that they must have somebody who gives them a checkmark to do it. I regret that this is the case.

What is going to happen with respect to the non-commercial signs along the highways in the great riding of Grey or Grey-Owen Sound? What is this member going to say about it? I said yesterday that I think it is unfortunate the New Democrats are closing down the opportunity of all of our citizens to freely speak about their religious preference by signage of their thoughts about great public policy events.

I close now only by saying that I am pleased to support the member, because he has asked for support to change this name; I have no trouble. But the proof, the real test, of whether or not there is relevance in this place will be the representation of the citizens' needs in this Legislative Assembly.

1030

**Mr McLean:** I welcome this opportunity to express my support for private member's Bill 9, An Act to amend the Representation Act, which was introduced by my colleague the member for Grey, soon to be the member for Grey-Owen Sound.

Mr Speaker, you are no doubt aware that Owen Sound city council and Grey county council both adopted resolutions, of which we have copies here, requesting that Bill Murdoch, MPP, Grey, introduce a private member's bill aimed at changing the name of the riding of Grey to the riding of Grey-Owen Sound. My colleague introduced a private member's bill on April 14, 1992, and we are debating it at second reading here today.

The proposed name change is not a spur-of-the-moment decision by the member for Grey. In the resolutions, both

councils note that Owen Sound is predominantly a regional centre within the county of Grey and the city houses the county of Grey administrative offices.

The constituents of both Owen Sound and Grey county would be proud to have the riding named after the two municipalities. That area of the province of Ontario has a long and glorious history, and I'd to just relate some of that history.

At the northern terminus of the Garafraxa Road on the shores of Owen Sound, a town plot was laid out in 1840 to encourage settlement in that part of the county, originally called Sydenham. I believe the present member for Grey was the reeve of that municipality and also the warden of the country of Grey. The settlement took the name of its adjacent body of water in 1857 when, with 2,000 residents, it was incorporated as the town of Owen Sound. That was in 1857, with a population of 2,000.

Owen Sound gave us two especially well-known Canadians.

Courage and marksmanship made Owen Sound native William Avery Bishop one of the leading fighter pilots of the First World War. Billy Bishop was officially credited with the destruction of 72 enemy aircraft and was awarded several military decorations for his actions.

For his courageous initiative in the fighting at Passchendaele in the First World War, Thomas William Holmes was awarded the Victoria Cross. After the war he returned to his home town of Owen Sound and later worked for the Toronto Harbour Commission.

Yes, Owen Sound has played a major role in the history of Ontario. Following the signing of the Saugeen Treaty, the government rebuilt a former Indian village adjacent to the settlement at Owen Sound for a band of Ojibwa led by Chief Neywash. In 1857 the residents ceded their land and moved to the reserve at Cape Croker.

Running from Weston, on the outskirts of Toronto, to Owen Sound by 1873, the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway Line facilitated commerce between the agricultural and forest resources of Grey and Bruce counties and the Toronto markets. The company was absorbed by the CPR in 1884.

The county of Grey has much of which to be proud.

The distillation of bituminous shale to obtain crude oil was an early attempt to meet the growing demand for oil. William Pollard's shale oil works at Craigmileith, which is just outside of Collingwood, the only such enterprise in Ontario, operated for four years until the discovery of more accessible oil at Petrolia and Oil Springs, which rendered the cumbersome shale process obsolete. Those last two places are, I believe, down near Lambton county.

Heroic action by a local rescue party in small fishing boats during a violent storm saved the lives of many of the people on board the *Mary Ward* after the steamship had grounded on a reef near the current site of Craigmileith Provincial Park, which is in Grey county. It's also just north of Collingwood.

The Durham Road, the Garafraxa Road, the Old Mail Road and the Toronto-Sydenham Road were all constructed during the mid-1800s. These roads provided access and served to open up Grey county to early colonization.

Grey county gave Canada a number of famous people. The franchise, improved health care and fairer property rights for women, temperance and better conditions for factory workers were just some of the causes to which the indomitable Nellie McClung, who was born near Chatsworth in 1873, devoted her life.

A natural athlete with exceptional muscle and coordination, Noah Brusso was born near Hapover in Grey county in 1881. He became a professional boxer under the ring name of Tommy Burns. In 1906 he became the first Canadian to win the heavyweight championship of the world.

While I'm talking about famous people in this country who have come from Grey county and area, former Prime Minister of Canada John Diefenbaker is also among those famous people.

We cannot forget the first woman elected to the Canadian Parliament, Agnes Campbell MacPhail, who was born near Hopeville and championed many causes such as prison reform, improved health care and rural cooperative movements during her years in federal and provincial politics.

One of Canada's best-known painters, Tom Thomson, grew up in Leith and worked as a commercial artist before he started to paint in oils. His canvases of the forests of northern Ontario reveal a distinctive style of painting and were a strong influence on the Group of Seven.

A native of Meaford, the Right Honourable Sir Lyman Poore Duff, was one of Canada's most eminent jurists, an expert in constitutional law, particularly as applied to provincial and federal rights. Duff held many appointments during his career, including Chief Justice of Canada.

The moving force behind the establishment of the Anti-Slavery Society of Canada, Major Charles Stuart, who settled near Thornbury in Grey county in 1851, devoted much of his life to humanitarian causes, strongly influencing the anti-slavery movement in England and the United States.

The people of Owen Sound and Grey have much to be proud of. I have no problem in supporting my colleague's bill. That whole part of Ontario—the Blue Mountains, Devils Glen, the scenic caves—when we look at our tourism industry, we have to look at that part of this province with great admiration for the people who visit there and fish the shores of Georgian Bay. Then we have to look at our apple industry. A lot of apples are grown in the Thornbury and Meaford areas. The apple cider we use comes from that area.

Some day, one of the great historical parts of this province will be the Niagara Escarpment. Many countries would love to have an area that has so much heritage and so much to add to our sports and fitness and conservation people who tour that area, so that they could have the opportunity to go and enjoy and hike right across this province through the Niagara Escarpment.

I remember debating in this Legislature when we had the redistribution in the ridings back in about 1985, I believe it was, with regard to Simcoe East, the recommendation from the election commission that it should be named Simcoe North. We had quite a debate in this Legislature to have that name kept as Simcoe East, thereby identifying

that part of the county of Simcoe that is on the easterly border of Simcoe county.

The member for Grey brings before us today a bill that both of his municipalities have sent letters endorsing. I think if the government today is listening to the people, and especially the people in the riding of Grey, it will certainly be supporting this resolution and making sure that it happens.

In conclusion, the people of Owen Sound and Grey have much they can be proud of and I have no problem supporting private member's Bill 9, An Act to amend the Representation Act, which would change the name of the riding of Grey to the riding of Grey-Owen Sound.

I want to thank the member for Grey for bringing this matter before the Legislature for our attention and consideration. I would urge everyone here to support this bill, as they did when he brought the bill through to have Tartan Day 6 April.

1040

**Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East):** It is a pleasure for me to rise this morning and speak to the member for Grey, we hope soon to be Owen Sound, on his Bill 9, an act to effect a name change.

Before I go on to that, I'd just like to say how enjoyable I find history. To the member for Simcoe East, friend, colleague, I really enjoyed hearing about some of the things I've seen up in that area brought to my attention, in particular the shale in Craighleith where they discovered oil. That always amazed me. When I first came to Canada and went up there and saw that, I couldn't believe what the sign said. So I am always interested in history and it was a wonderful history lesson to hear about all the wonderful people who have come from that area over the years.

I am very familiar with the area myself. I just think it's some wonderful country there. I speak specifically of Thornbury, where those apples grow, and the beautiful scenic drive through Collingwood that always reminds me of some places in Europe that I am familiar with, as I drive along there particularly in the spring; such a wonderful spot. I am also very familiar with Meaford, but I don't speak about Meaford in such adoring terms because, as the member probably knows, that's a military training area. I spent many a mosquito-bitten summer there doing all kinds of manoeuvres. Mr Speaker, you are probably familiar with that area too.

Nevertheless, I think it's important to recognize the diversity of the member's riding and the reason why he's bringing this name change forward. Owen Sound is another beautiful rural city; it has some wonderful amenities. I have been there many times and had the pleasure, many years ago, to make the acquaintance of the member whom the member for Bruce spoke of so endearingly, Eddie Sargent, who, as we all know, was quite a character in the Owen Sound area even when he wasn't here in the Legislature.

I'm also taking recognition of the fact that the council of Owen Sound has asked the member to effect this name change. I think we would be remiss in this Legislature if we didn't recognize the impact and the concerns of the

council of Owen Sound to have that city recognized in the name change of Grey-Owen Sound.

I'd be remiss if I didn't speak of my own riding in this opportunity—Durham East. I don't know who was responsible for the realignment of Durham East. I've got to my left the member for Durham West—

**Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre):** Centre.

**Mr Mills:** Durham Centre. See how confused I am. We have the member for Durham West, we have the member for Durham East, we have the member for Durham-York, we have the member who is in Durham, but they call that Oshawa. Talk about confusing.

I represent in Durham East parts of Whitby and parts of Oshawa along with the other places in my riding. I know that annoys me a little bit when I get things that happen at Durham College, which is in my riding although it's in Whitby, and my colleague the member for Durham Centre gets the recognition, and at the same time when things happen in Oshawa, which is also in my riding, the member for Oshawa gets the signal to go to all these events.

I'm thinking maybe there's a beautiful, wonderful name for Durham East whereby we can get all this sorted out once and for all and we know it does encompass Oshawa, Whitby and other fine areas in the riding, such as Scugog, Port Perry, Bowmanville, Newtonville, and of course that quaint hamlet where I come from, Orono.

The riding of Grey at the moment, soon to become Grey-Owen Sound, is such a beautiful, wonderful riding. I've often wondered, given that parameter, why it wasn't represented by New Democrats, because I just thought it was such a super, wonderful area. I'm not going to take away from the member, who also really is a friend and colleague and a super representative for his riding. He often stands in this House debating issues on behalf of Grey and he's a very forceful person for that riding. Notwithstanding the fact that we haven't got a New Democrat there, I would accept the member as a very fine substitute at this point in time.

With that I will support his name change, because I feel he is representing his riding and he's representing the council that has asked him to endorse this. In fact this is not some idea he has, but it's really being put forward by the people, and as such I think we in this Legislature should also recognize that and support the motion of the member for Grey.

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** I'm pleased to rise this morning to speak in support of my colleague's resolution—actually private member's bill—this afternoon, second reading of Bill 9, An Act to amend the Representation Act, in the name of Mr Bill Murdoch, riding of Grey.

Of course, as we've heard in every speech, it's a very simple matter today. It will change the name of the riding from Grey to Grey-Owen Sound in recognition of the great city of Owen Sound, 20,000 people, a geographically distinct city but also a politically distinct city. They're neighbours and good friends, but they are different, and I think to give the recognition to the city of Owen Sound is a very commendable initiative.

As we've heard said by a number of speakers this morning, there are two resolutions, one from the city of Owen Sound and one from the county of Grey, both indicating support of this resolution, so we see tangible evidence of local municipal council support, which has been solicited I believe by the member for Grey in his leadership role in representing his riding, which he accomplishes very well at all times.

Grey is to the north of my own riding of Wellington, so I think I know it quite well. It's geographically adjacent and I know the people are very similar. The small towns are very similar. The industry, the farms, the rolling countryside are all very similar. We share many different interests and issues between Grey and Wellington. The member for Huron, the member for Bruce, we all sort of represent the same types of ridings in rural Ontario, and there are a number of issues that we are concerned about.

My colleague the member for Grey has made representation in this House many, many times on the issues that concern his riding. He's done an outstanding job representing his riding. Second, when I think of the member for Grey, the thing that comes to mind is the outstanding service he gives to his riding in his constituency. I don't know of a harder-working member in his own riding. I know that every weekend he's spent going from event to event, running constantly to ensure that he gets around to meet as many people of his riding as possible, to meet his constituents so he knows their concerns and he's able to come back to Toronto and represent them. I think very highly of the member for Grey and the work he has done in that respect.

A number of other names of representatives of Grey have come up in this morning's discussion, people like Eric Winkler and Bob McKessock and Eddie Sargent. I know a couple of them. I know them all by reputation very well. They were all excellent members, I believe. I know that the member for Grey is following in that fine distinction of outstanding service to his constituents.

I would just like to say once again I intend to support this private member's bill. I think it's an important issue of community recognition. I would urge all members to do that this morning.

1050

**Mr Gary Wilson (Kingston and The Islands):** I am pleased to join in this debate on the member for Grey's bill. When the question of names comes up, one thing that springs to mind is a famous quote from Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*: "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

It suggests what the member for Bruce was saying: What difference does it make what we call our ridings? To be truthful, I would have thought that the member for Grey would have wanted to call his riding Kingston and The Islands II, because I think, and I thought when I came here it was generally agreed that no riding could be called anything finer than Kingston and The Islands. There's something exotic about it; I think it strikes the proper chord to give you a lift that would add to the tone and the substance of the debate here.

However, I think it's important to realize we can't all be called Kingston and The Islands, much as we'd like to be. But there's another point here as well. This kind of debate raises the historical aspect: Just where did the names come from for these ridings? Chairing a committee that's looking at new heritage legislation, I'm very pleased to say that it's a very important aspect, the kinds of decisions we make regarding things as intangible as names. I'm pleased to hear that the member for Grey has looked at this very carefully and in fact taken a page from the New Democratic book by consulting very widely on this question before he's made this leap.

However, I do want to say that Kingston and The Islands—first of all, people say, "Just what are those islands?" Let's put them in the record right now. They are Howe Island, Wolf Island and Amherst Island and have been included in the name since 1966. The other thing, though, is that there is a rural aspect to Kingston and The Islands, namely, Pittsburgh township, a thriving area of some 10,000 people that doesn't figure in the name Kingston and The Islands, yet is a very important part of it. I think this speaks to the member's concern that all aspects of his riding be represented.

But going back to what the member for Bruce said, I think it's probably not so important what the name of the riding is, it's what the member does. I think it's fair to say, though, you can have both. Why not have a name like Kingston and The Islands, which is an estimable, proud and honourable name, and a hardworking member? I think they go together. Not only that, it sets a very high standard to reach for. That's the kind of tradition we're trying to build.

I realize the member for Grey is attempting to start over and that's why he's included a new name in his title. He has chosen one community from several, I think, very honourable and thriving communities in his riding. I certainly wish him luck. I think there are some solid things he can do. Certainly, by looking at what our Treasurer has come up with in his budget, he can think about the priorities we've set, that is, job creation, protecting social services and controlling the deficit, and look to those kinds of things to work in his riding to build the kind of reputation that several of our ridings on this side enjoy, and I think in particular of Kingston and The Islands.

I am very pleased to associate the proud tradition that my riding has with this riding as it begins its history. The best of luck to the member for Grey.

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** I'm pleased to join the debate in the brief time I have. I'm actually one of the member for Grey's constituents. I have my cottage up there, and indeed many of the people of York Mills have cottages in Grey county. I'm delighted to support this bill. I'm delighted to support Bill in his bill to change the name. It's reflective of the fact that he wants to truly reflect the wishes of the people.

Grey county is a wonderful place, filled with people with good, honest values. Bill Murdoch represents those values. He's in favour of less government, less government intrusion, but he's concerned about the social wellbeing of people. Indeed, his wife worked tirelessly for many years

in social services. His concerns for his county are well reflected in this bill and everything he does, the hard work in this House and in his riding, are very reflective of this.

I want to congratulate the member and say: "Bill, keep on representing me well up in Grey. Make sure that market value reassessment is not passed in Grey and continue to prosper as the member for this riding for many years and many elections when we're the government of Ontario, when we start putting Ontario back to work and getting taxes down. I know you'll do a fine job as the minister. I congratulate you and I'm pleased to support you."

**The Deputy Speaker:** The member for Grey.

**Mr Murdoch:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I apologize. Is there time left for the—60 seconds. The member for Durham Centre.

**Mr White:** I rise to support my friend from Owen Sound and Grey, but I also want to clarify some points my colleague the member for Durham East made. First of all, Durham is not in my friend's area. There is a town called Durham, but the region of Durham and the five or six ridings that call themselves Durham have nothing to do with that town, unfortunately. They have to do with the fact that it's the regional municipality of Durham we represent.

Many people might think, coming from a riding called Durham Centre, that my riding is in fact right in the middle of the region; it's not. It's in the middle of the heart of all the people in the region, of course, but not in the geographical heart. My riding actually is composed of the urban areas of Whitby, which extends far up, and the northern half of Oshawa. Durham West and Durham East, although they seem like they're not in the centre, are not peripheral ridings.

**Mr Bernard Grandmaître (Ottawa East):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: My colleague the member for Bruce used all the Liberal time. I would like to go on record that I will be supporting Bill 9.

**The Deputy Speaker:** This is not a point of order. The member for Grey.

**Mr Murdoch:** First, I would like to thank all the members here who supported this resolution: Paul Klopp from Huron, Al McLean from Simcoe East, Ted Arnott from Wellington, Gord Mills from Durham East, Gary Wilson from Kingston and The Islands—that's an excellent name—David Turnbull from York Mills, Drummond White from Durham Centre and Ben Grandmaître. How would I help not thanking Ben.

Ben has helped me out in many things when Ben was the Minister of Municipal Affairs in Grey county. We worked together on some problems with the Niagara Escarpment and we have an industry up there due to Ben's hard work. He phoned us one night, we came down, we discussed things and got it all sorted out. We appreciate the work you've done for us then, Ben, and I know we'll work together in the future.

I want to just reiterate that both the city of Owen Sound and the county of Grey have supported this. The city of Owen Sound, to some of my members over there, is a separated city. It is not part of the county, so this is one of

the reasons I would like to recognize that. Hanover, Meaford and Thornbury, while being proud urban centres, are part of Grey county which they are also proud to be part of. We have the two distinct municipalities and this is why we want to reflect this.

I also would like to say that I think there is something in a name. People are proud of their names. I'm proud of my name and I think all members in the House are proud of their names and the names of their ridings and I think this is an important thing. One member mentioned that maybe some of the other members from my riding weren't as concerned about their name. I think they were. It's just that their ridings at that time were different.

In 1987 there was restructuring and my riding became totally the riding of Grey county and Owen Sound. I think this reflects that. I thank everyone for their support.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The time for the first ballot item has expired.

1100

#### AMBULANCE OFFICERS DAY

Mr Morrow moved resolution 11:

That in the opinion of this House, since ambulance officers work in a stressful environment and in life and death situations, February 20 in each year should be recognized and proclaimed as Ambulance Officers Day.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Pursuant to standing order 94(c)(i), the honourable member has 10 minutes for his presentation.

**Mr Mark Morrow (Wentworth East):** I rise today to address the proclamation of February 20 as Ambulance Officers Day. Back when I was first approached by ambulance officers, I had very little knowledge of what was involved in the job. I, like most others, just saw people who appeared in the middle of a crisis, did their job and disappeared. After hours of meetings, I now have a better understanding of what it takes to work in this type of situation, to enter a home and see a child just after he's been burned by a cigarette, or arrive at a bus crash to assist injured people in a tangle of wreckage, or transfer a patient from one hospital to another as their body is ravaged by cancer. It is enough to make me have a deeper respect for all the members of this profession. Every time an ambulance passes me now, I pause, I take a little time, I think just a little differently than I did a few short months ago.

I will discuss the training and education needed by these civil servants before they are hired, the ongoing upgrading needed, the job stress, plus the life-threatening occurrences that are part of their employment. Before one can even be considered for this position, a prospective ambulance officer must first complete a one-year course at a community college. In Ontario, 10 colleges offer this course, with Fanshawe, Niagara, St Clair and Conestoga being the representative schools in the southwestern area. The curriculum of this schooling includes: anatomy and physiology, patient care, basics in psychology and psychiatric behaviour, practical skills in care of ambulance equipment, infection control, driving skills, care of the

ambulance, administrative procedures that include integration of dispatch care and patient assessment skills.

After the course is completed, successful graduates must take an emergency medical care assistance examination, which is administered by the Ministry of Health, and if they pass are allowed to seek employment anywhere in the province with a private company or even with the government of Ontario. But this is not the end of their educational involvement. Ambulance officers must continue to upgrade their skills in new equipment, new medical procedures and new techniques. Besides this, recertification must continually be done in the areas of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR as we better know it, first aid, they must receive inoculations for hepatitis B and maintain their class F driver's licence. That's quite a bit of work.

Treatment in most communities involves arriving at the scene and getting the injured person to a hospital for medical assistance as quickly as possible. The only service they will perform is the administering of oxygen, but there are times, in life-threatening situations, where they must do defibrillation.

In the Hamilton and Toronto areas, paramedics are also on duty. Besides having completed their year in community college, they received specialized training from the base hospital in basic and advanced life support skill maintenance. This gives them training in specialized areas including IV therapy, use of certain drugs for pain relief and methods of insertion of tubes to assist breathing. The treatment someone would receive is comparable to the first 15 minutes in emergency. This means that highly trained ambulance officers can, with the assistance of the medical staff at a base hospital, begin treatment of a patient in the ambulance. This, besides stabilizing the patient in transit, also gives the hospital information on the status of the incoming person that will increase survivability. In some communities, this gives the hospital time to put a team of specialized health care staff on standby, ready for the patient's arrival.

There are at present roughly 4,000 ambulance officers in the province of Ontario, which is a substantial number; roughly 16% of them are women. This used to be a male-dominated field, but I'm glad that is quickly changing.

There are constant stresses that go with this type of employment. In a discussion with ambulance officers, during an average 10-hour shift there are 7.5 calls per vehicle, which roughly adds up to 1.5 million calls throughout the province per year, 40% of these calls being emergencies involving life-threatening situations, including heart attacks, car accidents, domestic violence, airplane crashes, drowning and fires.

When someone is wearing a uniform in the middle of a dispute with weapons involved, dangerous situations can and often do take place: Some ambulance officers have been shot as they arrive on the scene of an injury. With the assistance of firefighters and police, it is possible for these professionals to quickly remove those who are injured from the dispute.

One shining example of the commitment of ambulance officers to their work was during the Mississauga train derailment. I'm sure everybody in this House still remem-

bers that incident 10 years ago. Within eight hours, over 120 ambulances were on the site from all over the province. Three hospitals were evacuated and all surrounding nursing homes also had residents moved. During that time, officers worked between 16 and 24 hours per day to get their job done. This of course is not the only time this happens, but it is an example of how services can be coordinated during a dangerous event.

Air ambulance officers also serve, in the use of paramedics, to assist the transfer of patients from one hospital to another for more specialized treatment that may include organ donations or transplants.

Ambulance officers, working closely with the staff of the Ministry of Health, have instituted developments in equipment to assist patients and staff. Presently field testing is taking place on a brand-new stretcher that reduces the amount of strength needed to lift an injured person into an ambulance. Members of this House should know that a person will be lifted four different times between the accident and his or her placement in a bed in a hospital. With the average weight of 200 pounds per patient, 80 pounds for a stretcher and 30 pounds for equipment, there would be severe stress on the back of each staff person. This new equipment should make travel safer and also reduce injuries to medical staff.

Using Oakville as a focus, informal celebrations of Ambulance Officers Day have occurred, with events like hockey tournaments. In 1992, that brought over 300 officers together and raised over \$2,500, which was donated to the children's ward at Credit Valley Hospital.

What this proclamation would do is formalize a specific day that recognizes the work done by ambulance officers, the unrecognized emergency services. It is my hope that this will get women and men together in big and small groups in communities all over Ontario to pat each other on the back for all the work they do for our health care system.

This proclamation is not something that will change the face of the province but accomplishes something very special and very personal. The 1990s have become a very cynical time, with many people constantly criticizing government, civil servants, media and even their neighbours. Instead of this, I am hoping that more time is spent on sharing what we have in common than arguing about differences. A proclamation that recognizes the commitment ambulance officers give to the community is a very small action on behalf of the members of this chamber to women and men who work in life and death struggles every day.

I would like now to close by saying that there are ambulance officers in the building today to rally some members. I understand that they're having something outside at 12 o'clock and I would like all members of the House to join them and to have a talk to them.

**Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre):** I'm pleased to participate in this debate and I commend Mr Morrow for bringing the issue of ambulance operations to the floor of the Legislature. I recall that the member's last contribution to private members' hour was also on a health care issue, and I think it's useful to have these matters before us in the House so there can be a generic debate outside a

specific government policy or opposition response or proposals.

I can speak, like many others in the House, quite personally about my gratitude to ambulance workers. As a young teenager, my own life was saved by skilled attendants after I was thrown from a car on to the Queen Elizabeth Way after our automobile was devastated by a hit-and-run driver. The training and the skills and the quick thinking of that crew meant that emergency care was provided on the road, in the ambulance and right into the emergency department of St Joseph's Hospital. One of the attendants had managed to pick up every single one of my teeth, which had been scattered on the road, the shoulder and the ditch, and carried them into the hospital, where they were all ultimately stitched back in, which accounts somewhat for the way I look today when I either smile or growl.

1110

Some 10 years later, after that personal incident, I once again had an opportunity to be grateful for the skills of ambulance attendants when my oldest daughter was transferred to the Hospital for Sick Children in a high-risk situation. My stories could be repeated, I have no doubt, by everyone in this chamber and by hundreds of thousands of people across the province. They're personal and they're real and they reflect the daily and nightly work of ambulance attendants.

When we were looking through material that might be interesting to bring to the floor in the context of this discussion, an enterprising researcher in the legislative library came across a book, called *A Century of Red Blankets*, written by James Hanna in 1982 as a history of ambulance service in Ontario.

Mr Hanna's research takes us back to 1880 when an anonymous female benefactor presented Ontario's first ambulance to the Toronto General Hospital. It was a solitary horse-drawn carriage, and while it was the first in Canada, it followed a tradition going back to Napoleon's battlefields where field hospitals known as "hôpitaux ambulants," or "moving hospitals," transported medical personnel to the field site, not patients away from it.

Napoleon's chief surgeon, Baron Larrey, who developed the field hospital, was dissatisfied with that approach and developed the "ambulance volante," or "flying ambulance," which at that time were horse-drawn vehicles capable of carrying wounded and their medications to a care sector. Those vehicles had floors which lifted out to double as stretchers.

I will refer to Mr Hanna's book for only one other piece of history, but I do commend it to those members who might enjoy his well-documented presentation. He tells us that ambulance services in Ontario were slow to begin because health care was usually delivered in people's homes by physicians, largely because it was impractical to do otherwise because of long distances, few hospitals and uncertain roads, which meant that emergency care was generally provided at the patient's bedside. Hanna writes:

"Where ambulance service existed at all it was usually provided by the local undertaker, often with the same car-

riage used for funerals. How the undertaker fell heir to this role is the subject of conjecture. One popular hypothesis is that he was the only one to possess a carriage, other than a haulage wagon, sufficiently long to accept the prone human form."

Even when ambulances first came into being, first at the Toronto General and then at Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital, the local undertaker continued to provide service. Hanna tells us:

"It is interesting to note the term 'Private Ambulance' on many of the early ambulances operated by undertakers in the larger centres. This was a sure sign to those about that their neighbour was 'going in style' and not being carried away in the city-owned ambulance that carried the drunk, the infectious and the indigent sick."

We've seen the evolution of ambulance services. At the turn of the century ambulances were operated by hospitals, undertakers, volunteers and cities. Today they continue to be operated by those same people and by others as well. In the early days payment was supposed to be made by the patient to the undertaker, although we're told by Hanna that the payment was rarely collected because the undertaker probably expected to see the patient on another occasion. That too has evolved from a fee-for-service situation to OHIP coverage for medically necessary ambulance services with a copayment feature.

Training requirements have changed for ambulance attendants, and as those requirements have changed we have attendants working with different qualifications and formal training, sometimes within the same ambulance service today. The equipment has become more sophisticated, moving from the one-horse carriage to vehicles carrying highly technical equipment and monitoring devices and telecommunications networks. The air ambulance system adds another dimension to the sophistication of the system.

I think, along with the member, that we can all be proud of the high level of emergency health care we have in Ontario today and of the practitioners who are responsible for the delivery of that care. Along with others in the House, I salute them.

In my remarks today I particularly want to walk into the past and trace the rather ad hoc evolution of ambulance services to reach the point where we have settled today, because this very day, I'm told, ambulance operators are meeting at Queen's Park and ambulance attendants will gather in a demonstration on the front steps. The issues that are at the tops of their minds are ones which spring directly from the evolution of ambulance services in Ontario.

Successive governments have responded to emergency service needs. In 1968 the Tories centralized responsibility at the provincial level for the development, control and funding of ambulance services, and in 1973 ambulance services were transferred from the Ontario Hospital Services Commission to the Ministry of Health. In 1989 Elinor Caplan, then Minister of Health, injected \$18 million into the system to enhance the quality of ambulance services, regional trauma networks and critical care hotlines.

In February 1991, then-Health Minister Evelyn Gigantes announced a review of emergency medical services,

chaired by Dr Gene Swimmer. That report is now available, and following post-report consultations a final report will be submitted to the Minister of Health in June. To date the current minister has not responded to that initial report, and perhaps that is appropriate within the context of the process.

I want to tell you that I won't be supporting this resolution today, because I think real action is far more important than the symbolic action which is being called for in this resolution. I believe that if ambulance attendants want real recognition and if ambulance operators hope for a continued place in the system, they will have to look to the very real actions by the Minister of Health in mid-June.

The government is not bound to implement or honour a resolution of this House, and in my view, while Mr Morrow has put forward an honourable sentiment in his resolution, it is one with little meaning. Furthermore, there is a day for the recognition of the skills and work and contributions of all workers, and that is Labour Day.

The Swimmer report, to which I referred, contains 109 recommendations, one of which is the creation of a crown agency commission to be the sole provider of all air and land ambulances across Ontario and the sole employer of all ambulance workers. Another recommendation is the universal availability of the 911 service in all towns and regions in Ontario. In Swimmer's recommendations, one bargaining unit for all ambulance workers would be put into place, with a limited strike provision. A distinct separation between emergency and non-emergency services would be introduced into the system. Recommendations surround implementation of base hospital and advanced life support systems, training, pension plans and other issues.

Some of the Swimmer report recommendations have validity and have been recognized through other reports and indeed by actions of previous ministers of health and previous governments. But one of the recommendations which will itself create stress and controversy is the intention to ease the independent operator from the system, to buy him out according to a formula. This issue has not been explored in any real depth in the consultation period. From the date of completion of the Swimmer report until the final day when the minister finishes and receives the report from post-report meetings the time is far too short. It's now opportune for the Minister of Health to speak out and advise us where she sees the place of the independent ambulance operator within the system and where she sees the place of the ambulance attendant in the system. When we hear the Minister of Health's response to the Swimmer report we will know precisely the government's intent to honour ambulance workers and ambulance operators. We await that information patiently.

We have seen an ideological base for many of the decisions of this government. We saw actions in relationship to independent operators of child care centres which leave those independent operators in a position where the buyout is almost the only appropriate step to be taken. Despite parental choice and the same licensing requirements and quality of care that's provided by child care workers in the private centres, an ideological base to that decision has meant that \$75 million available to child care has been

diverted to a purpose not associated with the delivery of child care services.

The Swimmer report would see the same thing occur in the ambulance sector, where money would be diverted from the delivery of health care services to the buyout of private operators. The minister has not spoken to this. It is important for people in Ontario to know the place of the private operator who has been a part of the history, functioning and quality delivery of care. Where does that person fit in this government's ideology?

I think we in the House understand that there have been questions surrounding the place of medical laboratory services and of other health care services delivered by independent operators. Through this report, and because of the lack of the minister's response to the report to date, we are left in a position where we see once again another valid service now provided through an independent operator being threatened.

I will not be supporting this resolution. I believe that Labour Day is the day when all workers are celebrated for the skill, effort, stress and contribution they make to our society as a whole. I believe that symbolic action is not enough. We need to hear from the minister on this issue.

1120

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** I welcome the opportunity to say a few words about this resolution from the member for Wentworth East. He is asking the Legislature to recognize and proclaim February 20 in each year as Ambulance Officers Day in Ontario because ambulance officers work in a stressful environment and in life and death situations.

I'm in complete agreement with the principle of this resolution. There's no doubt in my mind that ambulance officers, along with firefighters and police officers, often work under extremely stressful and life-threatening conditions. One moment they will be maintaining their equipment at a leisurely pace and the next moment their heartbeats accelerate as they respond to an alarm. Unfortunately a majority of these alarms turn out to be false due to faulty equipment, malicious intent or individual error. This poses a very real threat to ambulance officers and to firefighters and police officers who unexpectedly run into a very real emergency after becoming complacent about responding to numerous false alarms.

Recognizing and proclaiming an Ambulance Officers Day sounds good in theory, but it will do little if anything to relieve stress and properly equip emergency personnel to deal with life and death situations. To accomplish this I would suggest that the NDP government give serious consideration to my private member's Bill 2, An Act to regulate Alarm Systems, which was introduced and received first reading on April 7, 1992. Members will no doubt recall that I introduced this private member's bill back on November 29, 1990 after this government took power, but it died on the order paper when the Legislature prorogued on December 19, 1991.

My private member's bill is related to the resolution we are debating here today. It would establish a licensing system for those installing alarm systems and a system of

finer for false alarms that cause an unnecessary response from emergency personnel. Emergency personnel have indicated that more than three quarters of the alarms to which they respond are false and result in an enormous amount of wasted time and money. The rise in false alarms in Ontario is drawing emergency personnel away from dealing with really serious situations. I believe repeat false alarms can make emergency personnel complacent about their investigations and expose them to danger when responding to real crisis situations.

I received a lot of support from emergency personnel and municipal officials when I first introduced the private member's bill in 1990. As well, a number of solicitors general under the previous Liberal government and the current NDP government have indicated they favour this type of private member's bill because there is presently no legislation on the books to address the issue of false alarms.

While I agree there is a very real need for this type of legislation, the provincial government is jeopardizing the safety of our emergency personnel by not moving on this issue as soon as possible. It would go a long way towards relieving stress in their work environment. Other assistance is available in the form of adequate equipment and appropriate facilities.

A prime example of an inappropriate facility is the \$440,000 Taj Mahal ambulance station on Highway 11 near Washago, which many people have come to call Washago's new ski slope because of its huge sloping roof. The provincial representative for Local 314 of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union has called this structure a mind-boggling waste of taxpayers' money.

The Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie was directed by the Ministry of Health to build and operate an ambulance substation near Washago and a second one near Craighurst. A hospital official said the roof is large to enable people to see it better when they want to locate it easily during an emergency. The OPSEU representative responded that you don't want people coming to the substation because ambulance attendants could very well be out on a call. He said the whole point of having an ambulance service is to be able to get help to people when they call and ask for it. No one goes to an ambulance depot looking for emergency service; they call.

Rather than just recognizing and proclaiming February 20 each year as Ambulance Officers Day because they work in a stressful environment and in life and death situations, let's give them the appropriate level of support and assistance to better enable them to deal with that stress.

I want to repeat the news announcement that was in the paper with regard to the ambulance stations: "It's an emergency building. The reason the roof is so large is so people can see it in an emergency situation. You can't take the time to try to locate the building. It has to be very visible." That is from a member of the Royal Victoria Hospital staff, which was responsible for building these two buildings at \$440,000 each.

What we need is an extension of our 911 number; that's where they should be putting more effort in order to be able to cover more of the province. The government

should be putting more effort into the committee that was established to look into 911 across this province. I have not seen where it has established that for emergency calls that our ambulance people have to answer.

It is my understanding that the government is in the process of developing its response to the Swimmer report. It is a report recommending yet another level of bureaucracy. My understanding is that there is some 109 recommendations in that report, so it should come as no surprise that our party is prepared to fight any further attempts of this government to eradicate the private sector involvement in the delivery of health and social services.

We believe the private sector has an important role in the delivery of ambulance services in this province and we will fight this government to ensure that the role is not infringed upon.

Where does the minister stand with regard to the Swimmer report? We have not heard one word from her with regard to the easing out of the private sector, which I am sure she would very likely want to do.

1130

I have a bill we call the boating bill, which is try to get some control on the waterways of this province. If this legislation were passed to regulate and make sure there is more safety on our waterways, we would have fewer emergency calls. This is what I call prevention, not after the fact. Let's do it before it happens. That boating bill would certainly give the police the authority to regulate and to make sure anybody on that waterway who is driving a vessel knows what the rules of the waterway are. That way it's preventive medicine, so to speak, that will relieve our emergency ambulance operators of some of the calls they may have.

I understand that there are some people here today from right across this province demonstrating—they don't demonstrate; they're good, law-abiding people, but they want to be here to be recognized and they want to be here so we know they are important. We know how important they are. They've got to take all these courses, they've got to keep their licences up to date, they've got to get the CPR recommendations, emergency. Nobody knows the value unless you need to call. It's just like insurance; everybody thinks he's got great insurance until he wants to use it. I can't say that for the ambulance operators. We all think they're great and they are. They've saved many people's lives.

When we look at this bill today and having February 20 as a day to recognize ambulance officers, I believe it's important but I also believe the firefighters and our police officers are all part of that group that supplies the services to the people. I think a better effort on behalf of the government and the committee that was set up to look at the 911 number is that it be expanded so people right across this province would have the opportunity to dial that when they need it.

I commend the people we're speaking about here today, with the stressful environment they work in. I want to support this resolution and perhaps it will lead to something else being established.

I should mention that some time ago I introduced a bill here that was called Heritage Day. I was looking at the third Monday in February as a holiday to recognize our history. We talked about our past and looked towards the future when we discussed such a bill. That bill would have given us a day whereby we could reflect upon the people we're speaking about here today. We could have something in that bill that this could be recognized as a special day for emergency people who supply the service that we have across this province, namely, our police officers, our firefighters and our ambulance workers. Perhaps when that bill receives second reading it could go to committee and could be amended to include this very aspect within that bill. We could then have a holiday on the third Monday of February—it's one of the months where there is not one; the member from Ottawa is thinking about going to Naples on that day, I'm sure—where we could then recognize those three groups of people for the effort they put in to care for and to look after the people in this province.

As I said before, we don't realize the value we have in the services that are provided through our health care system in emergencies until we have to use them, and I'm pleased to be here today to support my colleague on his bill. Discussing this type of thing is what leads to making the public more aware and involved in exactly what we're talking about. While I want to support the bill, I think we can deal with this type of thing in the heritage bill, as I indicated. I also talked about the alarm bill I had with regard to false alarms. Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the time.

**Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford):** It's a pleasure for me to rise and join in support of the resolution of my colleague the member for Wentworth East. I too had been thinking about a similar resolution, something to the effect of an ambulance services week being declared. We give recognition to Police Services Week, we have Fire Prevention Week, but we don't always recognize the other significant portion of emergency service that is provided, that is, ambulance services throughout our different communities. There is no doubt that Police Services Week and the work our fire officers do needs to be recognized, but I also think we need to recognize the significant contribution that ambulance officers and ambulance services provide in this province.

When many of us think of health care, we automatically think of hospitals—that's the first thing that comes to mind—hospitals or doctors' offices, going for our health care. We sometimes forget that when we have a true health care crisis as the result of an accident or something else, the first people there to treat us are ambulance officers.

I'm on the road quite a bit, as many of the members are, and I'm sure we all hear the sirens go by and see the ambulance officers. I think this is a good opportunity to remind all people that ambulances are emergency vehicles and that all of us on the road should do our best to get out of their way as quickly as possible, because they are responding probably to an emergency, in many cases a life-and-death situation.

I think it takes a very special person to be an ambulance officer, to be able to respond to all the different

situations like car accidents, where people are in very desperate situations; as the member for Wentworth East has said, to be called to places where there may be guns involved and shooting going on. It's a very dangerous thing to be doing. It's also very dangerous to be in a high-speed ambulance on the way to the hospital, trying to get a person there very quickly.

Many people have gone into the field of ambulance officers as a career. The unfortunate thing is that many people who are there are not going to be able to continue being ambulance officers due to a great deal of stress and workplace injury. Recently, I met with my local ambulance service in Oxford and found it a very educational experience. I really didn't have a good understanding of how the system works. What hit home was the fact that there are many ambulance officers on compensation these days because of the stresses and strains of the job, trying to move bodies and trying to be careful not to cause any injury while moving bodies, which in some cases are very heavy. That puts a great strain on backs. As much as we're all taught how to lift things properly, when you're involved as an ambulance operator, you can't always do that. You're not in ideal circumstances. So I think it's very important that we recognize them.

The member for Halton Centre said she wasn't going to support this resolution because ambulance officers, like all other people, can be recognized on Labour Day. But we do recognize our police officers for their bravery and courage, as we should. We have medals for bravery and courage for them. We have the same thing for firefighters. I'm surprised we don't offer medals in this province for ambulance officers who do respond in very courageous ways to life-and-death situations. I certainly hope some consideration would be given to them.

I think ambulance services, the work ambulance officers do, is one of the least understood portions of our health care system by the public. I must say, until my recent meeting with my local service, my understanding was very poor. We see them go by, we know we need them in an emergency, but we don't understand some of the systems and some of the problems.

I think there are some concerns as to how the system operates. One of the concerns that was expressed to me was how the dispatch system works in our area. We have a central dispatch and it calls out the ambulances. The problem is that you have supervisors at the local detachment in Woodstock and they can't keep in direct connection with the ambulances, because it's done through a central dispatch. That does create some difficulties.

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But there is no doubt that there is a need for this day. I suggest there's probably even a need to go further and have an Ambulance Services Awareness Week, where the emphasis can be on the many dedicated people who are ambulance officers. Again, we all should take time to reflect on the very tremendous work these people do. We take them for granted, but when we need them they're always there in a very professional manner, doing their best to respond and get us to more medical treatment if we need that.

I've read some of the stuff in the Swimmer report and will be waiting with great interest to see how the ministry responds. But I'm also concerned by the fact that ambulance officers overall are extremely well-trained individuals and have the ability to do a lot more functions that they're not allowed to do right now. I'm very concerned about that, given that we know that in many cases, if it's a heart attack victim, what occurs in the first 10 to 15 minutes may determine whether he lives or not, and also how he responds in terms of his recovery. We need to look seriously at whether we can increase the activities ambulance officers undertake to ensure that we're working in the best interests of those victims who suffer heart attacks and that they can get that treatment as quickly as possible to increase their chances of recovery as much as possible. As I say, I will wait with great interest to see how the Minister of Health will respond to some of the recommendations in the Swimmer report.

I'm going to conclude my comments here and just say that I think all of us should be supporting the resolution from the member for Wentworth East to recognize the significant dedication of our many ambulance officers across this province and throughout all our communities. There is no doubt that all of us would be in worst circumstances and, as the member for Halton Centre indicated, that without their fine and dedicated work, unfortunately some of us might not even be here today.

Congratulations to the ambulance officers. Keep up the great work you're doing for all of us.

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** I'm pleased to be able to join for even a short time in this particular debate to pay tribute to those who are providing a service to the people of the province of Ontario which is very much appreciated, particularly by those who are in the family of people who have been injured, have been ill or who themselves have had this experience.

I don't think that people recognize fully, until such time as they require an ambulance, just how important it is to have people who move expeditiously and operate in a very kind and caring way to patients across the province. Many elderly patients at home are visited by an ambulance when an emergency arises. Very often of course that is a life-and-death circumstance, or at least one where there is serious illness, and it is very encouraging to know that there are dedicated people who are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, whether the weather is good or bad, under all circumstances.

I think all of us in this Legislature owe a debt to those people who have dedicated themselves to this particular profession. Very often the people who receive most of the accolades are the doctors, particularly those who are involved in spectacular operations. I think all of us know that there are people who are first on the scene. The scene they see is not a very pleasant one in many circumstances. I think of major accidents, of automobile accidents, of disasters, where those who are involved with the ambulances, those who are in the ambulances, are first on the scene providing first aid and ensuring that the people are moved to a hospital facility as quickly as possible. I think all of us in this Legislature pay tribute to those people

today and I'm pleased that this resolution has come forward so that we have the opportunity to do so.

**Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey):** It's a privilege and an honour to stand up and support my colleague's resolution today and talk in the short time I have about our ambulance workers. In my area we have a number of them. As I said before, my area is a large area of Grey and Owen Sound and there are a lot of different situations they get into, in the wintertime especially. We have harsh winters in our area and they have to go to many back roads and areas where people have accidents and things like that. They have to be there. We certainly appreciate all the work they do. If it wasn't for some of the ambulance workers in our area, there would be a lot more deaths happening. They're there first. They get right there as soon as they can.

I must point out too they have to work, as the member for St Catharines pointed out, seven days a week. They also have to work on Sundays. It is one of the workforces out there that works on Sundays and the weekends. Our area, being a highly tourist area, has a lot of different accidents that happen because of the different natures of some of the sports and things like that. So we certainly appreciate all the work they do.

I will be supporting this resolution. I want to thank the member for Wentworth East for bringing this forward. I think it's an excellent idea.

**Mr Paul Wessinger (Simcoe Centre):** It's a pleasure to be here, to be able to speak in support of this resolution. Ambulance workers certainly are among many workers in our society who are unrecognized and who ought to be recognized, when you look at the stress they have, the value of the work they do and the contribution they make. From personal discussions with many ambulance workers, I know the difficulty of the job. I know the stress, because I've met those who have had to take time off to cope with the stress they've had on their jobs, including the physical aspect.

We recognize in our society police with Police Week. We recognize firefighters with Fire Prevention Week. We recognize nurses for the work they do with Nurses Week. So I think it's only appropriate we should recognize another very key component of the health care area and that is ambulance workers.

Ambulance workers are of course part of an emergency services group that includes physicians, nurses and dispatchers, all of whom contribute greatly. We perhaps should look at recognizing not only ambulance workers, but also all emergency health personnel. I know in the United States there have a week established, a National Emergency Medical Services Week. Perhaps we should look at that and consider that in this province, in order to recognize the contribution all emergency health workers make.

If we look at our ambulance system here in Ontario, it has done a good job. We have consistently had high-quality service. Our cost per call, cost per capita and response time make Ontario compare well with other jurisdictions. We've had quite a growth in the system. As a result, we have somewhat of a patchwork system in Ontario.

There are seven different types of ownership within the ambulance system. The ministry operates five dedicated air ambulances and also contracts with general aviation contractors on a per-trip basis. Nine of the 177 land ambulance services operating in the province are directly owned and operated by the Ministry of Health and four are run on contracts with the ministry. Sixty-six services are owned and operated by hospitals, 28 by volunteer services and four by municipalities. The last group of operators are private operators who were accorded this new status by regulation following the determination of the Ontario Public Service Labour Relations Tribunal.

Last year, the ambulance service in this province handled a total of 1,180,022 calls. Of these, 519,846, or 44%, were emergency calls. That's quite a number of emergency calls and indication of the high level of importance the service has and the high level of emergency situations the workers have to deal with.

With our present system, I think there is concern with the change in our health care system, with the change in our hospital system, with the rationalization of our hospital system and with the need to have a health strategy that keeps health costs under control. We have to look to changes with respect to all health services and with respect to the ambulance services; that is no exception.

As a result of that need to look at changes, the government did commission the Swimmer report, and at the present time there is a committee established to review the Swimmer report and public consultation has occurred, began in Sudbury on April 15. A report on this matter is expected to be submitted to the minister by the end of June. At that time of course the ministry will look at the appropriate changes that may be needed to cope with the future demands on the system.

Again I urge all members to support this resolution.

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**The Deputy Speaker:** The member for Durham East.  
[Applause]

**Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East):** Is that for—oh, okay. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

First of all, I'd just like to say what a pleasure it is today not only to rise to speak in support of my colleague the member for Wentworth East's motion but also to talk about Thursdays in general. I always find it so refreshing to be here, to be able to talk to resolutions colleagues bring forward in an openness free of any sort of pressure from the government we represent. We can truly speak and say things from our hearts.

**Mr Wayne Lessard (Windsor-Walkerville):** We always do, Gord.

**Mr Mills:** I know, but I find it somewhat regrettable that Thursday mornings don't seem to attract as many people as they should, because surely to goodness this period in time is the opportunity we have to say what we think and to really speak from our hearts. So it's a great pleasure for me to be here today to support the proclamation.

I'm just going to speak to the resolution about the Ambulance Officers Day. Previously, before my appointment to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, I was the parliamen-

tary assistant to the Solicitor General. In that role I had a great opportunity to travel the province and to be closely associated, also under the umbrella of the Solicitor General, with the firefighters. Through my connection with the firefighters I too came into close contact with many of the ambulance drivers and the ambulance attendants and those folks, and I must say that they left me with a tremendous impression of their professional knowledge, the way they dealt with situations. I know in my own riding of Durham East I'm amazed at the response time into rural communities when someone suffers a heart attack and the ambulance is right there at the door.

In addition to the ambulance people who are here today, I would like to take a few moments to recognize the ambulance staff in my riding, the ambulance drivers in Oshawa, the ambulance drivers in Whitby, the ambulance people in Port Perry and in Bowmanville, all of whom do such a wonderful, tremendous job in looking after the people in Durham East, mostly in very traumatic circumstances and in most circumstances in matters of life and death.

I commend the member. We have days to recognize doctors, days to recognize policemen, days to recognize nurses, and I can think of no better resolution than a day to recognize the tremendous contribution ambulance drivers make to our society in Ontario.

**Mr Morrow:** I would like to personally recognize three paramedics from Hamilton in my riding of Wentworth East—I apologize if I get your last names wrong: Mario Posteraro, Jeff Dunford and David Donais.

I see giving ambulance officers a day of recognition as being a non-partisan issue, and it really saddened me that the member for Halton Centre used it as very petty politics to get at changes that should be made in the Ministry of Health. Yes, she's right, changes should be made, but they should not be made when you're trying to recognize somebody, especially the unrecognized emergency services. They're there to help us. Those people are there before the media gets there, they're there usually before the police and firefighters get there, they do their job and they get out.

I would like to thank the member for Simcoe East for his kind words of encouragement. I'd like to thank all the members of the government side for the support they've shown me in doing this. I would really like to thank the ambulance officers over the last two weeks who've shown me support and encouragement and given me a lot of material I can use. I'm very proud to stand in the House today to recognize them. I do believe they should be recognized every year for all the hard work they do. I look forward to seeing support for this from all three sides of the House.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The time provided for private members' public business has expired.

## REPRESENTATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI  
SUR LA REPRÉSENTATION ÉLECTORALE

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** We will deal first with ballot item 9 standing in the name of Mr Murdoch.

Mr Murdoch has moved second reading of Bill 9, An Act to amend the Representation Act. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Pursuant to standing order 94(k), the bill is referred to the committee of the whole House.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

## AMBULANCE OFFICERS DAY

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** We will now deal with ballot item 10 standing in the name of Mr Morrow.

Mr Morrow has moved private member's resolution 11. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

**The Deputy Speaker:** All matters relating to private members' public business having been completed, I do now leave the chair. The House will resume at 1:30 this afternoon.

The House recessed at 1157.

## AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1331.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

## L'ÉCONOMIE DE L'ONTARIO

**M. Bernard Grandmaitre (Ottawa-Est) :** Je n'ai pas besoin de prouver à personne ici dans cette salle que les francophones de l'Ontario sont patients, même trop patients. Je ne connais pas de Franco-Ontarien qui soit content d'avoir à manifester devant cette Assemblée législative. J'ai pensé qu'il était important de donner au gouvernement des nouvelles de la part des citoyens francophones de l'Ontario.

J'ai le plaisir de m'entretenir à l'occasion avec M<sup>me</sup> Claudette Gingras, femme d'affaires franco-ontarienne bien en vue. M<sup>me</sup> Gingras attend des signes clairs du gouvernement sur la façon de sortir l'Ontario de la récession. Elle pense que le secteur privé peut grandement aider, à la condition qu'on lui en donne la possibilité.

M<sup>me</sup> Gingras se demande pourquoi le gouvernement a l'air tellement enthousiasmé par l'idée des casinos, alors qu'il pourrait générer infiniment plus de revenus simplement en faisant ce que la majorité de la population veut en réalité, c'est-à-dire qu'on donne la possibilité à l'entreprise privée d'ici de concurrencer.

À l'heure actuelle, ça veut dire, entre autres choses, laisser les communautés qui le veulent injecter de l'argent dans leur économie le dimanche. Ça veut dire aussi abandonner nos nouvelles taxes sur l'essence, qui font fuir les consommateurs vers les États-Unis ; ça veut dire aussi donner la possibilité à la classe moyenne de mettre son argent ailleurs que dans les impôts et les taxes, et abandonner tout projet de réforme de la Loi sur les relations de travail.

## BUDGET DEBATE

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** My statement is directed to the House leader. It concerns the first time in the history of Ontario that there's been no opportunity to have a full debate on a provincial budget in this Legislature. The only opportunity opposition members will have for debate will occur when the individual pieces of budgetary legislation come before us in the Legislature some time in the near future.

The NDP members keep telling people that they have an open and accessible government. They say they have an understanding about wealth creation, they say they have an approach to revenue and expenditure and they say they are concerned about integrity and credibility. That is not true. That's certainly not what the people are telling me. It's their propaganda program that they're running.

Ontario's economic difficulties are far too pressing to allow this government the luxury of playing political games, but that is exactly what the government House leader's doing by not allowing opposition members an opportunity to fully debate the April 30 budget.

It's a sad state of affairs when opposition members are prevented from bringing the concerns of their constituents

to the attention of this government. Add this to the recession and the clear anti-business bias of this government and there's no question why our economy is reeling, job creators are under siege, taxpaying families are being deprived of hope and opportunity and the least fortunate in our society are being exposed to untold hardship.

Not only is the NDP government making history by not allowing a full budget debate, but it's making a bad situation worse for the people of Ontario.

## RIDE FOR CANADA

**Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York):** During this time of constitutional crisis Canadians need and wish to express their affection and concern for their country and its future. What better time than during Canada's 125th anniversary? The provincial equestrian organizations across Canada have created an opportunity for Canadians to do just that. They have organized a Ride for Canada, 125 days of celebration of Canada's 125th anniversary.

The ride began February 28, 1992, from each coast of the country. Equestrians, cyclists, hikers, canoeists, skiers, snowmobilers and people of all ages are welcome to join the Ride for Canada and travel five miles along its route. On May 31, the Ride for Canada will be entering Ontario. They will travel a northern and a southern route. They'll be entering the York part of our riding on June 12, and on June 13 they will be entering the Durham part of our riding.

At the end of each day participants and members of the community will gather around a signal bonfire to sing and toast and celebrate Canada. For further information on the Ride for Canada, if any of the members want to come to see me, I can tell them how it is happening in their ridings or they can call my office for more information.

This project is a visible expression of people's affection and pride, all the peoples of Canada, and the Ride for Canada ends with participants from each coast of the country arriving in Ottawa on July 1, 1992. I encourage all members to participate in one way or another during this event.

## BRONTE CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

**Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre):** The Ministry of Natural Resources has recently proposed that Bronte Creek Provincial Park be turned over to the Halton Region Conservation Authority. This request was made not for policy purposes but as a cost-saving measure, and that has been made very clear by MNR to people in my constituency, where the park is located.

Bronte Creek Provincial Park includes areas of natural and scientific features, Carolinian forest and provincially significant archaeological and historic areas. It includes natural areas for hiking, fishing and the study of our natural heritage. Within the Bronte Creek park is the Bronte Creek valley, recognized by the very ministry that wants to dispose of the park as the least disturbed and most diverse river valley along the northwestern Lake Ontario shore.

The Halton Region Conservation Authority is a fine operator of its sites and has a proven record with such

areas as the Kelso Conservation Area and Crawford Lake Conservation Area, for example. However, the mandate of provincial parks is different from the mandate of conservation authorities. This should not happen. The Tory government discovered, to its peril, how people respond to the gutting of provincial parks. That the NDP is following the same road indicates that it too will soon learn how people feel about the stripping of our natural heritage when the only rationale for doing so is to find an apparently easy way to cut spending.

#### CHARITABLE GAMING

**Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey):** I have here petitions signed by several thousand concerned residents of my riding who are worried about the fate of the Owen Sound Greys junior hockey team, which desperately needs financial resources to carry on. I am directing this to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, because one way in which the team could raise money to assist with transportation, new equipment and education would be through 50-50 draws.

At present the minister feels that 50-50 draws should not be licensed because, when selling these tickets, the organization holding the draw cannot accurately forecast the exact amount of prize, simply because it does not know how many tickets will be sold. But it seems to me and to the supporters of my local hockey team and to many other worthwhile organizations that use the money from these draws for charitable purposes that the minister should consider allowing this form of fund-raising.

These groups need assistance to continue their valuable community services. Surely now, in these difficult economic times when there is little public money for grants for these purposes, the minister and her government should seriously look at sanctioning 50-50 draws. I suggest to the minister that perhaps if these draws were held in a manner which would encourage more accountability, she would consider allowing minor league sports teams, legions who donate to regional health centres and Canadian mental health, and churches to continue to aid and enhance their communities, not only in Grey but everywhere in Ontario.

#### DEAF CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

**Mr Gary Malkowski (York East):** On Tuesday, May 26, 1992, the Ontario Cultural Society of the Deaf and Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf, a provincial school for the deaf, held their first biannual Deaf Children's Festival. I wish to share with the House how much I appreciated the opportunity to attend this event that was held at the provincial school for the deaf in Milton.

Over 600 deaf children from across the province participated in the Deaf Children's Festival and deaf pride activities. Exhibitions were held in the areas of art, drama, literature and poetry, and it was a real inspiration to see these children actively learning about their own culture, the deaf culture.

The Deaf Children's Festival was established with a goal to promote a positive image of deaf people in society, an image that can be shared by deaf children as well as by

their families. It also was a means of increasing public awareness through this celebration of the life and culture of deaf people.

I would urge members of the House interested in learning more about this unique culture to read a newly published book which is called *The Mask of Benevolence*, and I have it here with me. This was written by Dr Harlan Lane, and it's a moving, informative book about the modern deaf culture and the deaf community's struggle to gain recognition of its language and culture. As my T-shirt says, "It's Time for Deaf Pride Now."

1340

#### BROADCAST OF QUESTION PERIOD

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** In 1985 the government of Ontario, with the support of all political parties represented in the provincial Legislature, implemented the televised broadcasting of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

The electronic Hansard allows the public of our province to view without editing, without interpretation and without interruption all activities that take place in the legislative chamber, thereby allowing viewers to see not only what decisions are made but how they are reached. It provides Ontario residents with an opportunity to view question period, all debates and the processing of legislation and to become aware of the variety of views that are expressed by MPPs.

Those who have access to the Ontario parliamentary network through cable television are able to tune in to legislative proceedings; however, those without this service must rely upon TVO to view at least the question period.

Unfortunately shortly after the election of the NDP government, but incidentally I'm sure, the provincial question period was relegated to midnight or later, thereby denying many Ontarians the chance to see their government held accountable by the opposition.

It is my hope that TVO will review its scheduling decision and permit Ontario viewers to see their elected representatives deal with important issues of the day at a more convenient hour, one which is earlier in the viewing day and more accessible to a greater number of interested citizens.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** This week I sponsored a panel discussion on the government's proposed changes to the Labour Relations Act. The six members on the panel represented both sides of the issue and gave excellent presentations. The discussion that followed was very lively and informative. My constituents expressed a great deal of alarm about the implications for both employees and employers if these proposals become law.

Mandating automatic unionization on workers when only 50% plus one have signed and without a secret ballot vote means certification would be granted when 49% of the employees do not wish to join the union. By eliminating petitions, those who have signed union cards lose the opportunity for sober second thought.

The extreme shift of power from management to unions will mean less investment in Ontario and fewer jobs. Many constituents think this is wrong. The existing playing field is already slanted in favour of the unions against the 96% of Ontario firms that are small business. Small business will not be able to function on a playing field tilted to this degree. The Ontario economy is stagnant. We need to attract business to Ontario, not to drive it away.

My constituents gave me a message to bring to Queen's Park: This is the wrong way to bring harmony to employee-employer relationships; instead of bringing about one-sided changes, government should be working with both employees and employers on job creation and ways to increase our productivity. That way will give Ontario prosperity.

#### PARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

**Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East):** For my 90 seconds I haven't got a written statement because I wasn't apprised of the opportunity to speak until not 20 minutes ago. I'm going to use this time to say that as all members go back to their ridings this weekend, we should take some time and reflect upon our conduct in the House here. I think the name-calling of one another has to cease and that we have to reflect upon that. In my opinion there's absolutely no room at all in the Legislature for racist remarks or sexist remarks, and I am not alone.

I need to look at myself, because in the country I come from some of the language I'm used to using in normal conversation is unacceptable today, so I have to readjust my thoughts. I always called a woman a lady because that's the way I was brought up. I said all kinds of things that really are unacceptable.

Only last week I wrote an article in my local newspaper condemning the racist riots and the trouble in Toronto. I really put my foot in my mouth by referring to black people as coloured people, and I was told quite rightly that that was wrong. So I have to learn, and I urge all members to come to grips with this problem and go back and reflect. Let's make this a place where we all behave much better.

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

##### UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt):** My question is to the Treasurer and it pertains to the matter we've been raising for some time in the House now, and that's jobs. I would say to the Treasurer that for many of us, and I think for all of us, the situation is getting rather desperate. Perhaps the best way to highlight it is to read a letter I received that's probably not atypical: I think all of us as members receive similar letters, but it says:

"Dear Mr Phillips, MPP:

"Sir, I have been out of work since last April 1991. I just don't know what to do next. My two boys are coming back to live with me, but I've run out of funds. Hardly any food in the house. What is going on with the government—all of them? Your staff is sending me Job Mart each week and I thank you for that, but I need to work. Is there anything you can do? Please, let me know."

I read that letter because I think each of us, as we go back to our constituencies, will face similar individuals with similar questions. My question to the Treasurer is quite simple, and it's to ask him the question the constituent asked me: "I need to work. Is there anything you can do? Please, let me know." What am I to say when I see that individual?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** It's no surprise or no secret the young people in this province are having a very difficult time finding employment this summer. It's going to be a very tough summer; we know that. We've tried to respond as best we can, given the very tight fiscal corner we're in. I know the opposition members of the Legislature understand that. There's been no opposition member of the Legislature who has suggested that we should've run up a higher deficit or increased taxes more in order to provide more government jobs. I believe the members of the opposition appreciate that dilemma and do understand it.

Having said that, it would, of course, have been nice to have put a lot more money into job creation than we did, but on the other hand we did make a substantial commitment to jobs in this budget. That was one of the three priorities in this budget: creating jobs, maintaining essential services and keeping the deficit in check. Those were our three priorities and we've done the best we could in that regard.

I don't question the honourable member for Scarborough-Agincourt that it would've been nice to have done more, but given what we had to work with, that's all we were able to do. But I've said it before, and the Premier said it: We will be doing more.

1350

**Mr Phillips:** I hope the Treasurer understood I wasn't talking about youth unemployment here. This was an individual who said his two sons were returning to live with him. I think he had been in the workforce for probably 30 years prior to his layoff, so it wasn't a youth situation.

I appreciate that we have a difference of opinion about how many jobs will be created by the budget, but to follow up, I said yesterday we will be pursuing this relentlessly until we begin to see some substantial improvement.

You will be aware, Treasurer, that if you were unemployed in 1990 the average length that you would be unemployed in this province would be about three months. If you're unemployed today, you will be out of work, on average, for six months. The situation is desperate and this letter that I read—I dare say every member in the Legislature is getting similar letters daily.

My question to you, Treasurer, is this: Recognizing that two years ago when people were laid off or unemployed they at least felt that within three months they would be in some prospect of a job, and that it now looks like it's at least six months on average, is this what the people who are laid off with plant closures in this province have to look forward to? Or can you assure them that job prospects are improving and that they will not have to look forward to, on average, six months of unemployment?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** As a matter of clarification, I did misunderstand the member's question initially. I thought he was talking about youth, and I appreciate the fact that he was not.

There is no doubt that the recession has been much more difficult not just than we thought but than anybody thought, and much more prolonged and severe than the member for Scarborough-Agincourt ever dreamed as well, I assume. I assume that because all the experts were taken by surprise with this recession, and I hope he won't mind my putting him in the category of expert in this regard.

I would remind the member for Scarborough-Agincourt, though, that in this budget we did make a commitment to a substantial number of jobs. Just to remind members—and this is not youth employment jobs I'm talking about now; I'm talking about jobs overall, as was the member opposite—on the Jobs Ontario training fund we made a commitment of about \$176 million, which will translate into 10,800 jobs, assuming the private sector picks that up. In a recession, that's going to be tough. We realize that but we very much hope they will take advantage of it. The Jobs Ontario capital fund of \$500 million will create about 9,800 jobs. The Jobs Ontario homes fund is going to create about 2,400 jobs this year, a lot more in the next couple of years as the housing starts come on stream, and the base capital spending in all the ministries will support about 67,000 jobs. That totals about 90,000 jobs.

Considering how many jobs have been lost in the private sector, that doesn't take up the gap; I appreciate that. But there is only so much the government can do when the private sector is laying off so many people.

**Mr Phillips:** I would remind the Treasurer that there are fewer jobs being created this year with those funds than last year and I think it is important that the viewers out there understand that.

But my question to the Treasurer is this: Last year, Treasurer, in your budget, as you recall, you said jobs will begin to be created at significant rates in midyear. That was the summer of last year. That's what you predicted in the budget, and I think many of the people of Ontario held out hope that the Treasurer knew what was going to happen; it didn't happen.

We now have this budget, Treasurer, as you know, and in this budget you say, "Job gains to resume in spring," spring of 1992. You were wrong in last year's budget, as you acknowledged, but the one sense of hope I think the people have is that "Job gains to resume in spring" will come true and that at long last we will see job creation happening at a significant rate.

My simple question to you, Treasurer, is this: You're the one who is most on top of all the statistics and all the knowledge. Can we assume, with some degree of confidence, that this budget that's only a month old is right, that we will see job gains this spring and that I can tell my constituent, when I meet with him, that it's coming, "Be patient; job gains are coming this spring"?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I know the member for Scarborough-Agincourt would not want to leave the impression in the minds of members of this assembly or in the minds of

people who might be watching or listening to this exchange that I or this government are the only ones who were not accurate last year in the predictions on job creation and the recovery from the recession. Everybody was wrong, because everybody predicted we were going to come out of the recession last year, both in the United States and here in Canada. I don't think you could find an expert who didn't make that prediction, and I think you would have had to look far and wide a couple of months ago when we were drafting the budget to find anyone who didn't say the same thing this year.

I hope we're right. I hope what we say in the budget is correct. But I can tell you that I'm not the one who can flip a switch and cause the recession to end and cause people to have more hope about there being jobs for people out there. It would be nice to be able to do that, but I think the member for Scarborough-Agincourt is, if nothing else, a realist and knows full well this is not possible to do. All I can say is that the experts are still telling us we're coming out of the recession this year, and we very much hope that that's the case.

#### YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** My question is also to the Treasurer. It concerns employment prospects for young people in the summer of 1992.

Is the Treasurer aware that one of the Ontario government's principal summer student employment programs, namely the northern Ontario training opportunities program, will offer 1,538 positions this summer as compared to 2,700 summer positions last year?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** I don't have the numbers with me right at the moment, but I do know there are some programs in which there are going to be fewer students or young people employed and that there are other programs where there are going to be more people employed than last year.

I think the member refers to the northern Ontario training opportunities program. This year we are spending exactly the same amount of money we spent last year, namely \$3 million, on that program. If the member would like me to—I know there are time restrictions in question period—I could go through the entire list of programs for young people which indicate the kind of commitment this government has made to youth employment, but I'll await his supplementary.

**Mr Conway:** My point again is that a number of the government's principal summer employment programs are offering fewer jobs this year, when the youth unemployment rate is expected to be at 18%, than were offered last year. According to the government's own information, Nortop will offer some 1,538 positions this year. That's roughly half of what was offered last year.

Contrary to what the Treasurer said here yesterday, the government of Ontario's summer offering at Ontario Place will be down, not up, from last year. I double-checked with Ontario Place. Ontario's job offering at Ontario Place this year will be 537 positions as compared to 672 positions last year. The Environmental Youth Corps is going to be hiring slightly fewer people this summer than last year.

My question to the Treasurer is: How can he justify, in this summer of 1992, major programs like Nortop, like the tree-planting program—which, I remind him, will offer 1500 fewer positions than last year—in the face of the kind of student unemployment his own Ministry of Labour is predicting?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I want to correct the member for Renfrew North on his Ontario Place numbers. I believe he is inaccurate.

Where the member for Renfrew North is making a mistake is in assuming all the jobs at Ontario Place are by the Ontario government or through Ontario Place. For the first time, this year the private sector will be hiring more people at Ontario Place; as a matter of fact, there will be an increase in employment. I know the member doesn't want to be totally preoccupied with Ontario Place, but last year there were 1,272 at Ontario Place and this year there are going to be 1,393, so there is going to be an increase in the jobs at Ontario Place this year.

I would be quite happy to go through the numbers if the member wishes me to, but I can tell the member that with government programs we are offering jobs to about 70,000 young people this summer. That is a major commitment to jobs for youth in this province. Of course with the recession the way it is and with the private sector not hiring the way it used to, it's inevitable that there's going to be high unemployment among youth this summer; there is no question about that.

1400

**Mr Conway:** I'll tell you, that's creative accounting, taking credit for what the private sector's doing at Ontario Place. On that account the Treasurer is right, but my focus is what the Ontario government itself is or is not doing. The truth is that at Ontario Place, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Ministry of Northern Development, to name but five, the Ontario government's summer offerings, the ones it directly controls, are down, and down substantially, on a number of the major accounts.

I say to him again as a northern minister, what do you say when you go home this weekend to the thousands of young people coming out of the colleges, high schools and universities north of the French River border? What do you say when your own program Nortop is offering roughly half the jobs this year as compared to last year? What do you tell those young people in Nickel Belt who will be told that only one in six of the applicants to Nortop has any hope of getting a job?

The reality remains that the government's own direct summer job creation this year is offering fewer, and in some of the major programs many fewer, jobs than it did last year.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the member conclude his question, please.

**Mr Conway:** When is the Treasurer or the member for St Andrew-St Patrick going to announce the much-needed new initiatives to give effect to the Premier's heart-

felt concern that this is a problem that needs aggressive and immediate action?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I don't think the member for Renfrew North should discount the private sector jobs at Ontario Place.

**Mr Conway:** I'm not.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Well, he can't stand in his place and say there's going to be fewer jobs at Ontario Place one minute and then deny the fact that he said it the next minute. There are going to be more jobs for young people at Ontario Place this year than there were last year.

On the matter of young people in my constituency, I appreciate the member's concern about the young people in Nickel Belt riding. I share that concern, as I do for young people in Renfrew North. There is simply no question whatsoever that we are going to be making some moves. When the member for St Andrew-St Patrick reports, that'll become available to members of the House, of course, but I can tell the member for Renfrew North that even when the member for St Andrew-St Patrick brings down her recommendations to government there is still going to be very high youth unemployment in Ontario this summer. We are not out of the recession yet. The private sector is not hiring very many young people this summer and you can't escape the fact that this means high unemployment for young people this summer.

#### ASSISTED HOUSING

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** My question is for the Minister of Housing. On April 30 the Ministry of Housing issued a news release to mark the opening of a non-profit housing complex of 11 bachelor apartments in Toronto. According to the numbers in your own release, Madam Minister, each bachelor unit will cost taxpayers \$1,924 per month. According to CMHC, the average rent for a bachelor apartment in Toronto is \$490 a month. Madam Minister, how can you justify the taxpayers subsidizing bachelor apartments to the tune of \$1,924 a month?

**Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing):** I'd be glad to take a look at the press release to which the member is referring, because I don't know which particular development that might be. But certainly in terms of the allocations we make for non-profit housing, it's not simply a question of subsidization. What we are doing is investing in affordable housing that will long outlast housing which could be available at an affordable rate in the private market were we to provide a subsidy. It is the creation of housing which is going to last in the community and which, over a long period of time, will provide affordable housing that this ministry is interested in moving ahead.

**Mrs Marland:** I guess the question is who this kind of housing is affordable to. It's certainly not affordable to the people who pay the taxes in this province. I will send the minister a copy of her own press release. It's interesting that she doesn't have such significant figures in her mind. If the annual operating subsidy is \$254,000, it's not high math to divide that by 11 units.

In today's Toronto Star I have a couple of examples from the classified ads for rentals of luxury houses and town houses in the same part of Toronto. One says, "Beaches, heart of area, beautifully renovated 3-bedroom, open concept, finished basement, hardwood, fireplace, deck, garage, \$1,800 a month plus utilities." Another says, "Danforth-Woodbine, new luxury 3-bedroom, 2 baths, air, deck, skylight, parking, \$1,700 plus utilities." The highest rent for a vacant bachelor apartment is \$700 a month, which rents a luxury studio with Jacuzzi, air-conditioning and hardwood floors, near Broadview and Queen.

My question is this: If this is what can be rented in the city of Toronto, the existing vacant units, which is far less than the minister is spending on her so-called non-profit housing, does it make sense to you, Madam Minister, to spend tax dollars building new units at a cost of more than double what is existing today in Toronto? The vacancy rate, in case you don't know it, is almost 4% for those bachelor apartments in Toronto today.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** I'm sure the vacancy rate for bachelor apartments at that price is 4% if not higher. Most people who are renting bachelor apartments simply can't afford to pay in that range for a bachelor apartment.

What the member is suggesting is that a decision made in a market like today's, which is, as she will know, a very unusual real estate market, is one that should shape our housing policy here in Ontario for the next period of years. We look upon it very differently. In this housing market, where land prices and construction costs are low, it's a good time to be building. It's a good time to be employing people to build units that will be affordable and available for a long time in the city of Toronto to people who need affordable housing. When the real estate market turns around, I'd like to know where, 20 years from now, you're going to be able to find an apartment that will be exceedingly affordable at \$1,900 a month, and that includes land costs, all development costs, plus any rent-geared-to-income subsidies that go into the development.

**Mrs Marland:** I don't think the minister's hearing what I'm saying. We're saying \$1,900 a month for a bachelor. I don't think she understands this question, and she should. She's the Minister of Housing who is making these decisions. There has to be a better way to house people who cannot afford market rents.

In February 1992, the Fair Rental Policy Organization of Ontario released a report advocating a system of shelter allowances that would provide direct financial assistance to help needy tenants rent their own apartments at a fraction of the cost of the government building and maintaining non-profit buildings. For \$410 million a year, we could help house all the 250,000 Ontarians who paid more than 25% of their income on rent in 1991. The average cost would be \$137 a month versus the \$1,924 a month this minister is spending on this particular housing project which I've given her as an example.

Madam Minister, I have to ask you again, why are you funding a non-profit program which taxpayers cannot afford and why have you not considered the direct shelter subsidy instead?

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** Without questioning the figures that have been put forward by FRPO, which I could, let me suggest that the member take a look at what money we do spend on housing in Ontario. We have spent \$2.5 billion on shelter allowances through the Ministry of Community and Social Services this year. Through the Ministry of Housing, we spend another \$80 million on providing rent subsidies, mostly in the private market.

We think we should have a balanced program in this province. We should not only be pouring money into private dwellings and providing subsidies for people to find places in those private dwellings, but we should be ensuring that now and in the future we are creating as many affordable units as we can, which we will be a benefit to the public in this province for decades to come.

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#### REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** My question is for the Attorney General. I'd like the Attorney General to cast his mind back a few years ago, back to a time when he was a research consultant for the federal government. I have a very comprehensive document prepared by one Howard Hampton for the Solicitor General of Canada. It's entitled, "Legalized Gambling: An Overview. 1984."

Mr Attorney General, you are now the chief law officer of the crown of the province of Ontario. You are the Attorney General in a government which is about to bring in casino gambling. My question to you is: Have you shared this very comprehensive paper you prepared with your colleagues?

**Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General):** It's not often that members of the opposition show an interest in something I wrote when I was a law student working for the federal government. I'm very pleased they are interested in this now.

I did indeed write the document. I spent about two years working on it. I pointed out in the document that while legalized gambling is a fact in provinces like Manitoba, while it is a fact in Great Britain, while it is a fact in Nevada and New Jersey, one of the things which governments have to look at with respect to legalized gambling is the appropriate regulatory responses, the appropriate issues as to how control should be exerted, the appropriate accounting measures to be put in place and who ought to own and operate, the private sector or the public sector, so as to ensure proper protection of the public.

**Interjection:** He was desperate for a job.

**Mr Tilson:** Someone said he was desperate for a job. I suppose he was young and foolish and now he's just foolish.

On page 16 of this very comprehensive report, Howard Hampton stated, "Wherever casinos are found, they are inseparable from organized criminal activities."

Mr Attorney General, you wrote this 240-page document. You know the dangers of introducing casino gambling to a province such as this. As the chief law enforcement officer for this province, how can you now support a government policy you admit will lead to organized crime in Ontario?

**Hon Mr Hampton:** I had occasion to read the document again the other day; I thought it might be a good idea if I read it again. I want to congratulate the member for his rather selective editorial comment on it. I also point out in the document I wrote, and I've pointed it out since then, that where there is an expanding market for gambling in a community or in a society, it may well be that elements of organized crime may show an interest in it because, after all, organized crime is interested in money and there is obviously money involved in any type of legalized or illegal gambling operation.

The fact of the matter is, I also note that the best way to control gambling, whether in North America or in Great Britain, is to have a very clear regulatory scheme. In fact, the most favoured scheme would be to have government operation of the establishments, as is the case in Manitoba.

**Mr Tilson:** Quite an astounding statement. I think all members of the House are going to find this report most interesting on where the now Attorney General stands on casino gambling. Research consultant Hampton writes, "Virtually every study undertaken points out that casino gambling encourages organized criminal activity." In fact, there is even a section in the report entitled "Legal Gambling for Tax Revenue Purposes and the Law Enforcement Tradeoff."

Attorney General, is this tax grab by the Treasurer worth compromising the people of the province of Ontario?

**Hon Mr Hampton:** To reiterate, there is no doubt that with legalized gaming of whatever fashion, whether it be bingos or whether it be lotteries or whether it be casinos, some illegal elements would be interested in those kinds of activities, because there is always money involved. What I point out in the study and what I believe today is that the most appropriate way to deal with any type of illegal interest in legalized gambling is, as I've pointed out, to have a strict regime of control, and I believe the best regime of control is to opt for some type of government operation.

I point out to the members opposite that, for example, in Manitoba, where legalized gambling has been the case since the mid-1970s, the strict control exerted by the government there has not only resulted in benefits to sports associations, cultural associations and community organizations in that province, but has also resulted in a form of legalized gambling that is very strictly controlled and which the people of that province are very comfortable with.

#### SEXUAL HARASSMENT

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is to the minister responsible for women's issues. This week it's come to the attention of all members of the House that a sexual harassment complaint made some time ago against a Belleville judge by an employee was dealt with in what seems to be a rather strange manner. Rather than disciplining the judge, the ministry allowed a special mediation council, made up only of judges, to arrange a mediated settlement in which the judge agreed not to enter certain areas of the courthouse. Clearly until now this situation was not brought to the attention of any minister of the government.

Now that we've all become aware of the situation, I would ask the minister responsible for women's issues whether she is satisfied with this resolution of the harassment charges and the situation still faced by this woman.

**Hon Marion Boyd (Minister Responsible for Women's Issues):** Although I am obviously concerned, this is not my area and I refer to the Attorney General.

**Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General):** I wish to correct an inference that was stated in the question. The member infers that somehow some members of the government have authority over judges in this province, that we can discipline judges and that judges are not independent in that respect. I want to correct that portion. In this province and in this country, judges are independent. No minister of the crown can discipline or otherwise direct a judge. If any of us tried to do that, I'm sure the member opposite would be on her feet alleging judicial interference. So I want to make sure that's very clearly perceived.

It's true that an allegation of harassment came forward with respect to a particular incident in a court here in Ontario. The Ministry of the Attorney General did a full investigation of the allegation and forwarded the report that resulted from that investigation to the chief judge, asking that the chief judge look into this and take the matter in hand. It is true that the chief judge then established a committee of judges from outside of that particular locale to look into the issue. They interviewed the complainant, and my understanding is that the complainant agreed to a settlement whereby the movements of that particular judge would be restricted.

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**Mrs McLeod:** I was very careful in attempting not to be seen to be laying blame on the government with my question. I am seeking a response to charges of sexual harassment out of a concern for the way in which this has been handled and the way in which in fact it might be handled in future cases. I'm looking for a response from a government that I believe to be committed to zero tolerance of sexual harassment.

At the very least, it's my understanding that the ministry advised the woman in question that it would take much too long for her to go through the official Ontario Judicial Council and that's why this special mediation body was set up. I'm sure both ministers are as concerned as I am about what I believe to be an unsatisfactory resolution of the situation. The question now is, what will we do about it?

I ask the minister whether he will undertake to carry out, at the very least, an internal inquiry as to the way in which this situation was handled, with a view to determining whether any other steps are needed, whether he will report publicly on that inquiry and, finally, whether he will advocate for changes to the procedures involving sexual harassment cases against the judiciary so that we can ensure this does not happen again.

**Hon Mr Hampton:** I thank the member that this focus has now been brought to the question, because I think it is indeed a very serious issue. We have known, and I think previous governments have known, that the disciplinary measures available to the judicial council under the Courts

of Justice Act in Ontario are not satisfactory. When we became the government we initiated a preliminary consultation with some members of the judiciary and within the ministry to look at this issue. As we speak, a consultation is now going on with the judiciary in this province and with those client groups that are very concerned, not only about this type of issue, which is very serious indeed, but with other issues involving the discipline of judges and regulating the conduct of judges.

I'm happy to say that this kind of issue is being consulted about and I'm hopeful that very early in the fall we will be able to return to the Legislature with comprehensive legislation dealing with the makeup of the judicial council, not only the judges who should be on it but lay membership of the judicial council, disciplinary standards, review standards and a speedup of the process so that many of the things that have happened behind closed doors in the past will now be open to the public and these kinds of issues will be dealt with appropriately.

#### ONTARIO ECONOMY

**Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South):** My question is to the Treasurer. This morning the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, which is the recognized voice of business in the province with 65,000 members, released a document entitled *An Agenda for Renewal*, not to be confused with *An Agenda for People*, which we've all learned to disregard in this Legislature. It was called *An Agenda for Renewal*. I want to read the press release. Pat Palmer said, "This document is intended to provide a direction for economic recovery, something which has been obviously lacking."

Casey Stengel said that ability is the art of getting credit for all the home runs that are hit by somebody else. Mr Treasurer, you can take credit for this, you can take the credit for some of the good recommendations in here. All we're asking you is, when are you going to implement some of the recommendations that are coming forward from groups such as the Ontario Chamber of Commerce? When are you going to act on those recommendations?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** It sure would be helpful if the member were more specific in what recommendations he's referring to. I did read with some interest, however, the material from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, because we do take its views seriously. We don't always do everything they request us to do, but there are some things in the document that I thought were very good, I must say.

On page 8 of their document they make the following recommendations as to what Ontario requires:

"Innovative programs which assist in bridging the gap in understanding between business and government—such as increased personnel exchanges and collaborative programs." I couldn't agree more.

"Government priority on development, maintenance and upgrading of basic human and physical infrastructure." That's exactly what our major commitment to capital and essential public services, which we brought down in this budget, means.

"Leadership from the Ontario government in encouraging the establishment of national programs and standards,

and the reduction of wasteful overlap and duplication of programs between different levels of government." I couldn't agree more, both with the federal government and with the disentanglement process that's going on now, between the province and the municipalities.

"An ongoing public examination of demands made by society on public sector services and promotion of public awareness of the real costs of these services." I agree with that.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Could the Treasurer conclude his response, please.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Finally, "Continuing elimination of inefficiencies in the public sector." We're working on that as well. So they make some very, very good recommendations. Some of them we are already doing; others we will be working towards.

**Mr Carr:** The problem is that this has been an Ontario-led recession; 80% of the jobs that have been lost have been in the province of Ontario as a direct result of the policies of the provincial government you're responsible for. I want to also tell you exactly what happened: 80% of the job loss is the direct responsibility of this government, because it has been an Ontario-led recession.

The president of the chamber said today—and I quote, because I was at that press conference—"Talking to this government is like talking to the wall." That's what he said this morning. He said, "It is frustrating going around and listening to the hearings on the Ontario labour relations amendments." His words were, "We were rebuffed during those hearings." He also said that during the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board hearings, "This government was only interested in getting the hearings completed, not in listening to what they had to say."

The Treasurer may like some of the things that are in here. What this chamber of commerce is saying is that we need some action. The other day I gave you some proposals, about four pages we talked about, they put forward in January and February that were adopted by the chamber of commerce as what it would like to do. They have summarized this in one document.

I would like to be specific. Would you indicate today what specific action you are taking, not the fact that you're listening and you like this on page 8 and page 9. When are you going to implement something? If you want to be specific about it, the number one thing on page 7 is to allow retailers to have freedom of choice to open seven days a week. He in fact said that was endorsed unanimously.

**The Speaker:** Would the member conclude his question, please.

**Mr Carr:** Could you take one specific item, and let's be specific about this one: When will we be able to see some legislation which will do what the Ontario Chamber of Commerce wants in Ontario?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I've been in the assembly for a considerable length of time, and I really do try to take suggestions from the opposition very seriously. But I want to tell you, that member makes it very difficult to take him seriously when he stands in his place and says that the

policies of this government—we've been in office for a year and a half now—have led to the recession in Ontario. Absolutely ridiculous. Absolute nonsense. There's not a serious-minded, objective person anywhere in this country or elsewhere who would make such a ridiculous claim.

My final word of advice—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** My final comment is, if the member for Oakville South wishes to be taken seriously by this government, I would urge him to put aside his petty, silly partisanship and ask more serious questions in this assembly.

1430

#### APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

**Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln):** My question is to the Minister of Skills Development. Mr Minister, recently the people of St Catharines and the Niagara region had their worst fears realized. There's a major reduction in staff at General Motors, the Niagara region's largest employer. Among over 2,300 who will lose their jobs, there are approximately 100 apprentices who are learning a trade. Can the minister please tell me and these 100 apprentices what options they have so they can complete their apprenticeships?

**Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Skills Development):** The member for Lincoln has on many occasions approached many of us with respect to the problems at General Motors in St Catharines, and this is a serious issue he raises today.

The central problem of apprenticeship, of course, is that to be an apprentice you have to have a job, and therefore there is a major problem in maintaining apprenticeships when jobs disappear. However, this is the only province in the whole country that has something known as a laid-off apprenticeship program, which we have had working for the past year and which continues. It is based upon the notion that there are at least some things you can do: first, that you can counsel apprentices with regard to their alternatives; second, that you can provide some simulated or alternative workplace settings in which to continue some of their training, and third, their education portions can be moved forward or done in sequence.

All those options are available for the apprentices at General Motors. There are, as I understand it, 32 who have lost their positions formally and 22 who will certainly be on long-term layoff. They are being assisted at this time by the Ministry of Skills Development with regard to the various options I just described.

**Mr Hansen:** Mr Minister, what are you doing to ensure that the apprentices don't lose the credits for the work they've already put into their apprenticeships but which they may not be able to complete before being laid off? The thing is that a man or woman has already worked three years in an apprenticeship, and then all of a sudden there isn't an apprenticeship to go into. Are they going to lose and have to start all over with a new employer?

**Hon Mr Allen:** Apart from trying to find alternative employers who will carry on from where they left off, we have an agreement with General Motors that it will sign off clearly for the hours that have been performed to date in the apprenticeship. They will be able to carry that documented evidence to another employer or carry it forward as evidence of training completed when they're searching for employment.

#### AIR QUALITY

**Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North):** My question is for the Minister of the Environment. Minister, you're very well aware, as we all are, that the month of June is just around the corner, as is the summer, and with that the promise of hotter and more humid weather.

However, after reading the Toronto Star this past weekend, I was concerned that the air quality index numbers for places such as Etobicoke and Burlington were as high as 46, Niagara Falls had a reading of 45 and Mississauga, St Catharines, Guelph and Hamilton all had reported readings of 43. To top it all off, Minister, the people residing in west Toronto and the city of York suffered a smog reading of 49.

Minister, you of course are well aware that the acceptable level, as set by your ministry, has been at the air quality index of 32. Considering that these readings were taken on the 22nd of May of this year and that the hot weather months are still to come, what assurances can you give to this House and the people of Ontario that you and your ministry are doing everything you possibly can to deal with air quality and air pollution issues in this province at this time?

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment):** I certainly acknowledge the concern that the member and very many people in this province have expressed as we approach the summer weather. The member will know that the moves undertaken by his government continued with us, to deal with gasoline handling and to make mandatory the regulation that previously had only been on for certain periods of the year, have done something to deal with this issue.

I think there is a much broader concern, and that is the whole question of vehicle emissions. We have continued our work with the federal government to look at what we can do about what's known as NO<sub>x</sub>/VOCs emissions and coming up with specific strategies and programs to deal with that.

I was very glad last week about such a simple thing as Bike to Work Week. I don't know whether there were any particular differences in the levels of emissions, but there have in fact been occasions, when people and individuals made changes in their own personal habits, where they affected the air quality for all of us.

There is no one simple, magic answer to this, just as there isn't to so many other problems, but by a variety of strategies and a variety of approaches I think we can all make a difference.

**Mr McClelland:** You're indeed correct, Madam Minister, that we can all make a difference and that people across this province can do what they can do. But you are

the Minister of the Environment. You have within your legislative authority the power to do a number of things.

In answer to my first question, you admitted that what you have done is to continue to do many of the things your predecessor, the member for St Catharines, initiated. Quite frankly, you haven't really taken any new initiatives in terms of air quality at all. Evidence of this incompetence, I think, can be seen directly within your own ministry in terms of what's happening with motor vehicle emissions, the very issue you raise. I've learned that the vehicle emissions test centre in your ministry has been reduced in size from the seven inspectors who were there in 1988-89 to the present number of one. There's currently one inspector employed there full-time.

I recall very vividly, Madam Minister, that while you were in opposition you were outraged by the fact that there were seven inspectors and only seven. That number has now been reduced to one. Further to this, although I'm not terribly surprised, the budget for the air resources branch of your ministry has been slashed by nearly \$850,000 from last year's level. How can you proclaim, Minister, with the rising air pollution index counts throughout this province, when you have basically been inactive on that front? Does cutting the amount of money and reducing to one inspector evidence your commitment to this particular issue? In large part it's due to poorly equipped and regulated motor vehicles and trucks. The fact of the matter is, you now have one inspector and you've cut the budget. Is that evidence of your commitment to this issue?

**Hon Mrs Grier:** The member is quite correct in remembering that the question of the vehicle emissions test centre was one I was very concerned about in opposition. Let me assure him I am still very concerned about that particular issue. But let me remind him, my concern in opposition was that there was one centre in Toronto and that wasn't capable of dealing with vehicles that were having inappropriate emissions around the province, and therefore we needed a better and more comprehensive approach.

I am delighted to be able to say to him that's exactly the kind of strategy that, in consultation with the Minister of Transportation, our ministry is working on and is ready to put in place, because it is not effective enough to have one centre that tests a certain number of cars a year in one city across the province. You have to look at issues in a more integrated and comprehensive way. That's precisely what we're doing.

#### SEWAGE AND WATER TREATMENT

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** I hope we get a better answer from the Minister of the Environment than she's offering anyone else. We haven't had answers since she was in opposition. It's time you got down to the real job of managing the environment as best you can.

Some two years ago the Ontario Treasurer announced a plan to establish a provincial water and sewer corporation. This corporation was initiated to address some of the very serious issues related to the deteriorating sewer systems in Ontario. James MacLaren, the chairman designate of this corporation, has stated that the sewer and water systems need immediate attention to avert an environmental crisis.

For 18 months you have chosen to ignore the severity of the situation. Of course, you've had the garbage situation, so in many ways you're known as the minister of garbage, but there are other factors that have to be looked at. Water and sewers is one of the main ones. Minister, what is the present status of the sewer and water corporation, and, on a broader spectrum, what are your immediate plans for improving the province's sewer and water treatment systems?

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment):** Let me deal with the broader issue the member has raised in the latter part of his question. Let me remind him there has been extensive expenditure by this government last year in the budget with respect to job creation programs and money that went into replacement of that infrastructure in the announcement by the Treasurer in this year's budget of a capital funding program to deal with an infrastructure across this province that has been neglected for 10 years and for much before 10 years ago.

Water is a very critical requirement that has to be looked at both from the point of view of infrastructure and from the kind of work that is being done by my colleague the Minister of Natural Resources to look at water efficiency and to look at full-cost accounting. Just as with energy, if you save the energy you don't have to build generating stations; if you save the water, you don't have to replace water treatment plants.

With respect to the specific initiative taken by the previous Treasurer to establish a corporation to look at sewers and water, that, as I have said before, is something this government has considered, is continuing to consider and has not yet made a determination about, but that does not mean we have not acted to deal with infrastructure and water issues.

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** That answer is simply not acceptable. The money is not being allocated and it's not going to the municipalities. A number of municipalities in my riding have spoken to me regarding problems they have. The town of Fergus, for example, has been told it cannot receive funding for an elevated water tank until some decision is reached on the corporation. The town has spent two years looking for assistance. The village of Clifford and the town of Mount Forest also have put forward several applications to your ministry looking for information on this issue.

These are not issues of expanding services. It is a matter of maintaining services at a minimum level that is needed in many communities. Minister, what assurances can you give this House that you will be providing assistance to maintain an appropriate level of service for sewers and water for municipalities in Ontario?

1440

**Hon Mrs Grier:** Let me correct the impression left by the beginning of the member's question, which is that if you set up a corporation that is a licence to print money and that every requirement can be met. That is not going to be the case no matter what mechanism is ultimately decided upon to fund the infrastructure of this province.

If anybody told a municipality in the member's riding that grants were not available pending the establishment of a sewer and water corporation, it was certainly not somebody within the Ministry of the Environment. Our ministry has continued the capital funding, has had from the Treasurer a generous allocation for capital funding, and is continuing the practice of setting priorities and looking at what needs must be met and can be met from the allocation each year. That does not, unfortunately, mean that we can grant every request by every municipality. I wish we could, but unfortunately no government can in fact do that. So we are ranking those requests, looking at the environmental needs and also working with the municipalities to make sure that we no longer undervalue this very precious resource and begin to get to a user-pay system whereby the users of the water begin to pay some of the full costs of both the provision and the treatment of that water.

#### AMBULANCE SERVICES

**Mr Mark Morrow (Wentworth East):** My question is to the Minister of Health. Madam Minister, I put forward a resolution this morning for a day of appreciation for ambulance officers. I'm quite glad to say it was accepted by both sides of the House.

I also understand that we have roughly 150 ambulance officers here today to rally us for support of the Swimmer recommendations. I'm really glad to see them in the public galleries today.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** And your question?

**Mr Morrow:** In 1991 the Minister of Health appointed Professor Swimmer of Carleton University to head an inquiry into the emergency medical services of Ontario. All aspects of ambulance services were thoroughly examined—issues of service to the public, structure and governance of the system. The report was provided to the minister in December. It said, "A provincial commission reporting to and funded by the Ministry of Health represents the best long-term structure for the Ontario ambulance service."

My question to the minister is: Are you planning to implement the recommendations of the emergency medical services review, the Swimmer report, and when does she expect to introduce legislation to that effect?

**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health):** I thank the member for his interest in this issue, for the resolution he sponsored earlier today in the Legislature, and join with him in welcoming the representatives of the profession who are here today. I understand that they have been going from office to office, meeting with members of this Legislative Assembly, to put forward their points of view and concerns with respect to the ambulance service in this province and their beliefs about the way in which it should be restructured.

The specific recommendations of the Swimmer report—there were some 109 of them; they're very complex, very thorough, and I should take this opportunity to thank the people who participated in that task force and developed them—we have asked Mr Swimmer to take back out to the community to get response from district health

councils, hospitals, nursing homes, consumers, workers, private operators, the whole gamut across the community as to how they feel about those recommendations and how they feel they are workable.

I expect to receive the report back from Mr Swimmer. Whether he will amend any of those recommendations I'm not aware of yet. Once I receive that I'll be in a position to make a determination about what the government will do with those recommendations. I assure the member that I'll let him and other members of the Legislative Assembly know. I'll also have the opportunity to meet directly with the ambulance officers this afternoon.

#### PROTECTION OF IN-CARE RESIDENTS

**Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau):** My question is for the Solicitor General. Over the past weeks we have continued to hear more and more shocking allegations about the situation of the former Grandview Training School for Girls. A former Minister of Correctional Services has made accusations of a 15-year coverup. The former chief psychologist has voluntarily left his teaching duties at the University of Ottawa. A member of this province's executive council has resigned his position over the same matter. There have been five unexplained deaths of inmates at Grandview school, deaths which are buried in the fine print of the Ministry of Correctional Services' annual reports. We've heard reports of former inmates of Grandview committing suicide.

The public is losing confidence in this process. The public is losing confidence in this investigation, Mr Minister. Do you receive regular updates on this important investigation? If you do so, will you please tell the House about them? This has been going on for more than a year. Mr Minister, my question to you today, in addition to the updates question, is are you willing to upgrade this to the status of a public provincial inquiry, as the victims, many members of the community and, indeed, many members of this Legislature think it should be?

**Hon Allan Pilkey (Minister of Correctional Services):** I personally share the concerns of the member opposite and I can well understand her anxiousness, along with the anxiousness of many others, to have answers to these questions that are outstanding, surrounding events that occurred so very long ago. The investigation is ongoing. I believe it will in due time produce the answers the member seeks, and hopefully they can be shared with all who wish to be aware of them and have knowledge of them. If, for some reason, it becomes apparent, or I believe the investigation is not being done in an appropriate or timely way, I will consider alternative measures, but I think that is somewhat premature at the moment.

#### CULTURAL FUNDING

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I believe my privileges as a member have been breached. Yesterday in this House I asked the Minister of Culture and Communications to explain why she had displayed such a lack of culture and communication with regard to funding for the Art Gallery of Ontario. The minister told the Stratford Beacon Herald

she would recommend to treasury board that no extra funding be provided to the AGO. When I asked the minister why she had not been courteous enough to first inform the AGO, she claimed the newspaper had misquoted her.

I have since spoken to the reporter at that newspaper, Mr Brian Schypulla, and he stands by his story, and why shouldn't he? As the minister well knows, the interview was conducted in person, in her riding and was tape-recorded. The minister should also know that her constituency office was in touch with the newspaper earlier this week and made no mention of any misquote.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the member for Mississauga South take her seat for a moment. You rose on a point of privilege. To this point, I cannot detect what privilege you believe has been lost. If you would—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. Would you quickly get to that.

**Mrs Marland:** For the minister to hide her transgressions behind such a typical political excuse is an obvious attempt to cast aspersions on the reporter and on the newspaper itself. Perhaps the minister was having a difficult day in the House. Perhaps she was just tired and lost it. I believe the minister should apologize to this Legislature and to the reporter involved.

**The Speaker:** I think the member will know that there is quite clearly a difference of opinion with respect to an issue which was raised in this chamber the other day. But what she refers to does not indicate any particular—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** I asked the members to come to order. What she indicates does not reveal any particular privilege she has lost.

1450

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** Mr Speaker, yesterday when we were responding to statements, on at least a couple of occasions you brought to order my colleague the member for Ottawa West as he was attempting to respond to the statement by the Attorney General. He was introducing at that point some information with respect to his concern that while a particular move had been brought on, finally, it had taken too long and he wished that something would be done in a timely fashion to deal with the issue of sexual harassment, which was again raised in a question by my leader today.

You had asserted, Mr Speaker, that as a result of precedent, all responses with respect to ministerial statements must in fact respond to the nature of the statement itself, which really confined the response of my colleague to the essence of the statement by the Attorney General. In fairness, Mr Speaker, I note that you did distribute—or at least it has been distributed—through Legislative Assembly precedent an interjection by the then Speaker in December 1986, the statement: "Order. I remind all members that the time for responses is to respond directly to statements made by ministers."

In essence, that was in the earliest stages of the then new rules. It has come to my attention, because I was a minister during the period following that, that when statements were made by ministers the tradition has arisen with the new rules of allowing free flow of interjection of any information with respect to a ministry when a minister has made a statement.

In fact, I went back and looked for a couple of examples. One I remembered quite vividly, when the Minister of Education in those days, Mr Ward, was accosted with some degree of skill by the member for Scarborough North, Mr Johnston. I bring this issue to your attention because that intervention was on April 5, 1988, far removed from the 1986 Speaker's note of the day. I also bring to your attention an event of December 29, 1987, wherein Mr Riddell had made a statement as Minister of Agriculture and Food, and the response by Mr Wildman as the then opposition critic. Both those gentlemen, Mr Johnston and Mr Wildman—I'm just reading off the paper; I can't remember what their ridings were. I guess Johnston Scarborough North and Algoma for Mr Wildman.

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer):** Scarborough West.

**Mr Elston:** Scarborough West, I'm sorry. Thank you very much, Mr Treasurer. You're spot on, as usual.

Both those members on those dates, well after the 1986 intervention by the Speaker of the day, were allowed to carry on with some degree of skill, as they are noted for, with responses which moved well beyond the essence of the statements of those ministers.

I therefore respectfully submit that you again look to the issue of precedent and tradition and that you allow the members of the opposition parties to respond much more freely than you allowed the member for Ottawa West to respond yesterday to the statement. I will send these to you just as examples. I stopped at these because I recall them as events. I'm prepared to assist in whatever way I can to find other days in which a very liberal latitude was allowed by the Speaker of the day.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Two points: As always, I'm more than pleased to take a look at points of order that have been brought to my attention, and, as always, the member for Bruce is most helpful. He has already done some research, and I will do some more. I will be reporting back to the House at a later date. Again, I thank the member for his assistance and his interest in these matters.

#### MOTIONS

##### CONSIDERATION OF BILL 121

**Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader):** I have two motions that are substantive motions, but there is agreement by the three House leaders that I can proceed with these motions during routine motions, so I seek unanimous consent.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Agreed? Agreed.

Mr Cooke moved that all amendments proposed to Bill 121, An Act to revise the Law related to Residential Rent Regulation, be tabled with the Clerk of the Assembly following routine proceedings today and be deemed to

have been moved. Any divisions required during committee of the whole consideration of the bill in committee of the whole House shall be deferred until immediately following routine proceedings on Monday, June 1, 1992.

Motion agreed to.

#### CONSIDERATION OF BILL 74 AND COMPANION LEGISLATION

Mr Cooke moved that the standing committee on administration of justice shall meet to consider Bill 74, An Act respecting the Provision of Advocacy Services to Vulnerable Persons; Bill 108, An Act to provide for the making of Decisions on behalf of Adults concerning the Management of their Property and concerning their Personal Care; Bill 109, An Act respecting Consent to Treatment, and Bill 110, An Act to amend Certain Statutes of Ontario consequent upon the enactment of the Consent to Treatment Act, 1991, and the Substitute Decisions Act, 1991, as follows:

Two sessional weeks to receive public submissions at meetings in Toronto; two summer sessional weeks to receive public submissions in Toronto and two summer sessional weeks for clause-by-clause consideration. All proposed amendments shall be filed with the clerk of the committee by 4 pm on the day prior to the last day on which the committee is authorized to consider the bills clause by clause. At 4 pm on the last day on which the committee is authorized to consider the bills clause by clause, those amendments which have not yet been moved shall be deemed to have been moved and the Chair of the committee shall interrupt their proceedings and shall, without further debate or amendment, put every question necessary to dispose of all remaining sections of the bills and any amendments thereto. The committee shall report the bills to the House on the first available day in the fall meeting period that reports from committees may be received. In the event that the committee fails to report the said bills on the date provided, the bill shall be deemed to be reported to and received by the House.

That upon receiving the report of the standing committee on administration of justice, the Speaker shall put the question for adoption of the report forthwith, which questions shall be decided without amendment or debate.

That two sessional days be allotted to further consideration of the bills in the committee of the whole House. All amendments proposed to be moved to the bills shall be filed with the Clerk of the Assembly by 4 pm on the last sessional day on which the bills are considered in the committee of the whole House. Any divisions required during clause-by-clause consideration of the bills in committee of the whole House shall be deferred until 5:45 pm on the last sessional day that the bills are to be considered in the committee of the whole House. At 5:45 pm on that sessional day, those amendments which have not yet been moved shall be deemed to have been moved and the Chair of the committee of the whole House shall interrupt the proceedings and shall, without further debate or amendment, put every question necessary to dispose of all remaining sections of the bills and any amendments thereto and report the bills to the House. Any divisions required

shall be deferred until all remaining questions have been put, the members called in once and all deferred divisions taken in succession.

That upon receiving the report of the committee of the whole House, the Speaker shall put the question for adoption of the report forthwith, which question shall be decided without debate or amendment.

That one further sessional day shall be allotted to the third reading stage of the bills. At 5:45 pm on such day, the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and shall put every question necessary to dispose of this stage of the bills without further debate or amendment.

That in the case of any division in the House relating to any proceedings on the bills, the division bell shall be limited to 15 minutes.

That this resolution be subject to change upon the agreement of the three House leaders.

**The Speaker:** On a point of order, the member for Carleton.

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** I'd just like to say two words about this. I want to point out to the House that both opposition parties have been in complete concert, in a most expeditious and in as constructive a manner as possible, in dealing with two very difficult bills. I want to make it clear to the public of Ontario that in spite of government sponsored, spin-doctored stories that this place was grinding to a halt, when there is important legislation in front of us, opposition parties do not just oppose for the sake of opposing. We oppose for the sake of making the legislation better, and in these cases we have volunteered to restrict our ability, in committee of the whole House and on third reading, to delay the matter. We have done that and we have consented to that voluntarily. I want to make it absolutely clear to this Legislative Assembly that we are in concert with this motion and have voluntarily agreed to it.

**The Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

1500

#### PETITIONS

##### REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** I have a petition today, and it reads as follows:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a quick-fix solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

Mr Speaker, it's signed by 46 individuals, and I have affixed my name to both petitions.

## RENT REGULATION

**Mr Gary Malkowski (York East):** I have a petition here signed by 75 people which calls on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and in particular the Ministry of Housing to make an amendment to Bill 121, the Rent Control Act, to establish the rights of tenants to terminate their parking space agreements upon proper notice to their landlords.

I also have affixed my name to this petition in endorsement.

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

I have signed my name to those, and it's been signed by members of Acme Building and Construction Ltd.

## MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

**Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey):** I have approximately 500 names here to add to the many petitions sent here from the London-Middlesex area.

"To the Legislature of Ontario:

"Whereas the report of Mr John Brant, arbitrator for the greater London area, has recommended a massive, unwarranted, unprecedented annexation by the city of London; and

"Whereas the arbitration process was a patently undemocratic process resulting in recommendations which blatantly disregard the public input expressed during the public hearings; and

"Whereas the implementation of the arbitrator's report will lead to a destruction of the way of life enjoyed by the current residents of the county of Middlesex and will result in the relevant portions of Middlesex patently not being economically viable;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I have also affixed my signature.

## REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock):** This is a petition signed by 43 constituents. It states:

"Whereas, we, the congregation of Grace United Church, Niagara-on-the-Lake, strongly oppose the Bob Rae government's plan to legalize casino gambling;

"We, the undersigned, ask the government to abandon such plans for legalized gambling."

I affix my signature to this petition.

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition signed by members of Corunna Fabricating Services Ltd, and it is with respect to instructing the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments.

I have signed my name to those.

## RENT REGULATION

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** "To the Legislature of Ontario:

"Whereas the proposed Rent Control Act, Bill 121, will prevent apartment owners from carrying out needed repairs to apartment buildings;

"Whereas this law, if enacted, will be detrimental to the interests of tenants and landlords across the province; and

"Whereas the rent freeze legislation, Bill 4, has already put thousands of workers on the unemployment rolls and Bill 121 threatens the permanent loss of 25,000 jobs;

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"To scrap the proposed Rent Control Act; to encourage the government of Ontario to work with tenants, landlords and all interested parties to develop a new law which would be fair to all, and to ensure that in this new legislation the interests of housing affordability and tenant protection are balanced with a recognition of the importance of allowing needed repairs to rental buildings to be financed and completed."

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investments and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

Those petitions have been signed by individuals of Edwards; the Construction Association of Thunder Bay; Dover Industries Ltd; Konvey; Experimental Tool and Manufacturing Ltd; J. J. McGuire General Contractors; York Marble, Tile and Terrazzo Ltd; Bibby-Ste Croix Foundries Inc; Advance Engineering Co; KemSam Inc; Regent Steel Industries Ltd; Triodetic Building Products Ltd; the Ontario Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association;

Zan-Dall Construction Ltd; Satellite Truss Ltd; Mitchell Construction; the Metropolitan Toronto Apartment Builders Association; Kara Consultants Inc; Alpha Vico Inc; Milne and Nicholls Ltd; Niagara Elevator Inc; Ken Douglas Painting and Decorating Ltd; JCJ Contracting; the Niagara Construction Association; Gor-Don Metal

Products and Services Inc; Samuel-Kent, a division of the Kent steel division of Samuel, Son and Co Ltd;

Culliton Brothers Ltd; Aldor Builders Ltd; Graff Diamond, contracting division; Standard Tube Canada Inc; Servocraft Ltd; Melloul-Blamey Construction Ltd; Vanvark Electric Ltd; All Systems Communications Inc; Steed and Evans Ltd; Buxton and Dawe Ltd; Teme Engineering Ltd; Reinforcing Steel Institute of Ontario; Wellington Guarantee, which is a division of Wellington Insurance Co; Presot Painting and Drywall Ltd; Plumbing Sales Ltd; Kenmore;

Pre-Eng Contracting Ltd; Ira McDonald Construction Ltd; Moffatt and Powell Building Centres; ES Fox Ltd; Boss-Tech; Bird Construction Co; Architectural Hardware Ltd; Seebach and Sons Inc; Centra Gas; Griffin; Bennett and Wright Ltd; Vanson Construction Ltd; Glamour Line; Pigott Contractors Inc; CBM Elevator Co Ltd; Equipment World Inc; Lualco Steel Erection and Mechanical Services Ltd; CR Associates; SK Sheet Metal Ltd; Mountainview Properties;

UMA Engineering Ltd; Berkim Construction Inc; Decoral Painting Ltd; Airguard; IC Insulcana Contracting Ltd; Canal Marine; the Ontario Electrical Construction Co; Karson Kartage and Konstruktion Ltd; Nellis Construction Ltd; the Toronto Construction Association and the Mississauga Construction Association; Palmex Interior Systems Ltd; Hanco Inc; Menkes Developments Inc;

Ronson Paving and Construction; Canadian Glass;

Hacio Ltd, Mechanical Contractors; Standard Pressure Pipe; Doran Contractors Ltd; Armoured Floor Co Ltd; Branair; Mueller-Hein Corp; 574246 Ontario Ltd; BBS Construction (Ontario) Ltd; Charles H Presley; Norenburg Construction Ltd; Choctaw Construction Co Ltd; C&C Plumbing and Excavating Ltd; Ottawa GSB Construction Co Ltd;

B. J. Normand Ltd; Acc-Par Systems Ltd; Fendor Glass and Aluminum Ltd; Comac Construction Ltd; Cutting International Ltd; FuelMaker Corp; Engelhard; Charter Building Co; RW Packaging (Int'l) Inc; Franceschini Bros Aggregates Ltd; Toronto Stamp; Hull-Thomson Ltd; Eldon Rubbermaid; Canadian Manufacturers' Association; A. Schulman Canada Ltd; Art Brennan Exc. Ltd; Rivett Architectural Hardware Ltd and Martin-Stewart Contracting Ltd.

I have affixed my signature thereto.

1510

#### FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** I rise to present a petition which exceeds in number 3,000 people in this province.

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the installation of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario's citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the minister of francophone affairs, who is also empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"Whereas there is no compelling reason why Ontario should have bilingual highway signs at all;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing English highway signs with bilingual English/French signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately, any and all provision under Bill 8 notwithstanding."

This petition is also supported by a resolution of the mayor and members of council of the city of Mississauga.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the impact that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

These petitions have been signed by individuals of Shrader Companies, S. A. Armstrong Ltd, Woodall Construction Co Ltd, Dawn Mechanical Sales, the staff at Dynasty Contractors Ltd, Simplex International Time Equipment Co Ltd, Bertrand Faure Ltd, ABI Leisure Products and Advanced Monobloc.

I have signed my name to these petitions.

#### REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

##### STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE OMBUDSMAN

Mr Morrow from the standing committee on the Ombudsman presented the committee's 19th report, 1991, and moved the adoption of its recommendations.

Motion agreed to.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Does the member wish to make a brief statement?

**Mr Mark Morrow (Wentworth East):** Yes, I do, Mr Speaker. The 19th report highlights some of the achievements of the Ombudsman in her annual reports of 1989-90 and 1990-91. It also comments on some of the progress that's been made in implementing some of the recommendations.

I would also like to say that this report was unanimously accepted by all three parties. I'd like to thank the members, the clerk, Franco Carrozza, and Paul Murray, our researcher.

On motion by Mr Morrow, the debate was adjourned.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PROVINCIAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION ACT, 1992  
LOI DE 1992 SUR LA CONSULTATION POPULAIRE  
À L'ÉCHELLE PROVINCIALE

Mr Turnbull moved first reading of Bill 30, An Act to obtain the Opinion of the Public on Questions of Provincial Interest / Loi visant à obtenir l'opinion du public sur des questions d'intérêt provincial.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** The purpose of this bill is to enable an Ontario elector and the Lieutenant Governor in Council to obtain a referendum on a question that is of general application to Ontario and that is within the Ontario legislative authority.

An elector who wishes a referendum must submit the question to the chief election officer on a petition containing the signatures of at least 15% of Ontario electors. The chief election officer will review every petition to ensure that it meets certain procedural and substantive requirements, and must place the question on a ballot for the general election to elect the members of the Legislative Assembly.

The Lieutenant Governor in Council may order that a referendum be held at a general election to elect members of the Legislative Assembly. The order must set out the day of the general election on which the referendum will be held and must set out the question that is to be placed on the ballot for that election.

If at least 50% of the electors vote in the referendum and if 60% of those electors vote the same way, then a minister of the crown is required to introduce a bill in the Legislative Assembly that proposes to implement the results of the referendum. Mechanisms are included in the act to ensure that the bill is called for second reading if it passes first reading. The act does not require the minister or any other member of the Legislative Assembly to vote on the bill in any particular way.

INCOME TAX AND ONTARIO PENSIONERS  
PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE  
STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992  
LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS  
EN CE QUI CONCERNE L'IMPÔT SUR LE REVENU  
ET L'ALLÈGEMENT DE L'IMPÔT FONCIER  
DES RETRAITÉS DE L'ONTARIO

Ms Wark-Martyn moved Bill 31, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act and to provide an Income Tax Credit to Seniors and to phase out grants under the Ontario Pensioners Property Tax Assistance Act / Loi modifiant la Loi de l'impôt sur le revenu, prévoyant des crédits d'impôt sur le revenu pour les personnes âgées et visant à éliminer progressivement les subventions prévues par la Loi sur l'allègement de l'impôt foncier des retraités de l'Ontario.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

1525

The House divided on Ms Wark-Martyn's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

**Ayes—37**

Akande, Allen, Boyd, Buchanan, Carter, Charlton, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Duignan, Ferguson, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hansen, Jamison, Johnson, Klopp, Lankin, MacKinnon, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Morrow, North, O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Pilkey, Sutherland, Swarbrick, Ward (Brantford), Wark-Martyn, White, Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman.

**Nays—15**

Arnott, Bradley, Carr, Cousens, Cunningham, Elston, Jordan, Marland, Murdoch (Grey), Runciman, Sterling, Stockwell, Tilson, Turnbull, Wilson (Simcoe West).

**The Deputy Speaker:** Minister, do you have a few remarks?

**Hon Shelley Wark-Martyn (Minister of Revenue):** Yes, Mr Speaker. This bill puts into place proposals in the Treasurer's budget of April 30. Lower-income seniors will benefit from the new property and sales tax credits which will replace the former grant structure. I would like to add that an amendment to a regulation under the Income Tax Act will also enrich the Ontario tax reduction program, ensuring that lower-income people do not have to pay any more taxes. The bill also increases the personal income tax rate and the surtax rate, and there are technical amendments to bring the federal and provincial income tax acts in line, as required under the tax collection agreement between Ontario and the federal government.

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I know we've had some confusion about the conducting of business around this place and about what is happening and not happening and what has been introduced and not introduced. But the government is now bringing in its first assault on the universality of programs in support of seniors in this province and it has not provided us with the ministerial statement which usually announces the introduction of a very important piece of business. That has meant we were unable to prepare ourselves for comment on the bill on the first day, which is not always allowed, but is becoming largely a tradition in this place.

1530

Interjections.

**Mr Elston:** I regret that I am unable to be heard because of those people over there, but I really wish to register in the strongest terms possible that this is a first shot at the universality of programs. This is akin to the type of invasion that occurred under the auspices of Brian Mulroney and the federal people in Ottawa, and it seems to me that we should have been allowed the ability to respond to a statement by the minister. Now it seems to me that we are forced, I admit with thinning numbers, to defend the proposition of universality in this program.

I only rise to say on the point of order that the traditions of this House have once again been trampled under the feet of the stampeding horde.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. Please take your seat. This is not a point of order. Your complaint has been lodged.

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** Mr Speaker, I have a point of order as well on this situation that's developed in the House today and it has to do with the breakdown in communications that is taking place.

First of all, I'm really proud of the fact that our caucus stood up to try to block this bill. It is one of those disgusting moves being taken by this government that is an abuse of seniors. They came along on a Thursday afternoon and tried to slip it through. It's wrong.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. This is not a point of order.

**Mr Cousens:** Mr Speaker, is it not against the rules of this House that there at least be some kind of public statement by the minister before she—

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Cousens:** Is it not an abuse of power? You guys are going back on your word.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. The Chair always has to make sure that I am given an opportunity to listen entirely to what is being said. Obviously, in this case there is no point of order.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of the whole.

#### RENT CONTROL ACT, 1992

#### LOI DE 1992 SUR LE CONTRÔLE DES LOYERS

Resuming consideration of Bill 121, An Act to revise the Law related to Residential Rent Regulation / Loi révisant les lois relatives à la réglementation des loyers d'habitation.

**The Chair (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Perhaps I should read the resolution again: That all amendments proposed to Bill 121, An Act to revise the Law related to Residential Rent Regulation, be tabled with the Clerk of the Assembly following routine proceedings today and be deemed to have been moved. Any divisions required during committee of the whole consideration of the bill in committee of the whole House shall be deferred until immediately following routine proceedings on Monday, June 1, 1992.

**Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing):** If I could just add to that, I understand there's an agreement among parties that we will more or less split time, calling upon assistance from the Chair's table to make sure that there is a more or less equal allocation of time among parties, and there is also an informal agreement that members may speak to one part of the bill or another, amendment or clause, and it doesn't necessarily have to come in order.

**The Chair:** Agreed.

**Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton):** On a point of order, Mr Chair: If the table is going to do it more or less, could we have more rather than less?

**The Chair:** Are there any members who wish to speak?

**Ms Poole:** I appreciate this opportunity to speak to amendments to the bill. The amendments I wish to address at this particular time are extremely important, and those are the amendments regarding energy and water conservation.

The government has tabled an amendment to section 15. They have just added one word to the capital expenditures list. They have said that not only are energy conservation capital expenditures allowable and eligible but also water conservation. Unfortunately, this does not address the problems relating to energy conservation in this bill.

During the Bill 121 general government hearings, the Liberal caucus tabled an amendment which would encourage and give an incentive to landlords to do energy conservation, because we feel as the bill is currently drafted that landlords will not only not do energy conservation but there is actually a disincentive to do energy conservation. The government in effect has said to landlords: "If you want to do energy conservation or water conservation now, you have to go through the hoops of rent control. You have to justify that the 2% was spent on capital. You have to risk having your rent reduced because of inadequate maintenance in another category."

What you get at the end of the day is the ability of tenants to make an application for a rent decrease due to the cost savings. So I say to the minister, what incentive is there for landlords to go to all the trouble and hassle of going through this very, very complicated rent review system, not getting the full benefit of all the money that they've had to put in to buy these capital replacements, when at the end of the day the tenants can actually make application to reduce the extraordinary operating cost portion in the rent?

I want to put before the minister an example which was brought to me by my colleague the critic for the Environment, Carman McClelland, who's from Brampton North. He told me about the situation of two very major companies—one, Caterpillar, and the other was a Japanese company—that have an agreement in principle to bring in and build in Canada cogeneration systems to put into apartment buildings, which would significantly reduce the energy costs for those buildings. This project was to give in Canada 30,000 jobs, a very major project, you will see.

1540

Their plan was not to have the landlords go for a rent increase due to the capital cost of putting the machinery in. Their plan, with the regulations put in place by the federal government, was that landlords would write it off and their investors would write it off as a capital loss and use the income tax system to retrieve some of that money back. They weren't going to give tenants a rent increase; they were going to put in these conservation methods.

However, the problem is that with this legislation, the tenant could then make an application for an extraordinary operating decrease under section 24 and realize all the cost

savings. What incentive is that? The tenants have not paid any rent increase and yet the tenants will get a rent decrease and the people who paid the money in as an investment will not get the cost saving and therefore not be able to recoup the rest of their investment. This is something the act does not address at all.

The Liberal caucus has put in an amendment to section 24 in order to rectify this problem. But I can tell you, Madam Minister, that the principals in this agreement have said, on seeing Bill 121, if it goes through in its current form, that the contracts will not be signed and the agreement in principle is voided: 30,000 jobs lost, conservation methods that would have been put in, not at the cost of the tenants but put forward by investors, who would then recoup it through cost saving in the future and through tax provisions by the federal government, which were amended, I think, two weeks ago. The federal government brought in amendments to its regulations so that investors could do this to encourage energy conservation.

The bottom line we face here is that in this particular situation it's a lose-lose scenario for everybody: for the tenants, for the landlords, for the investors, for the people who would have had jobs, for the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of the Environment, which are encouraging energy conservation, and all because this government refused to bend on this particular section.

I would also like to talk about some of the concerns the natural gas industry has. First of all, I think we can all agree that energy efficiency and conservation make not only economic sense; they make social and environmental sense. On the environmental side, energy efficiency and conservation lead to reduced atmospheric emissions and a cleaner environment. As well, energy improvements in Ontario will reduce the demand for electricity and assist Ontario Hydro in meeting the demand-side management objectives.

I think we're all agreed that energy conservation is a good thing from all aspects. However, the natural gas industry is deeply concerned about Bill 121 because the natural gas industry believes that property owners and managers may decide not to make a capital investment to replace or upgrade their energy facilities until just prior to the end of their life expectancy. In addition, they will likely invest in less efficient equipment, which may require a lower capital cost but result in higher operating costs and obviously less efficiency. Third, investment in energy efficiency and conservation improvements create much-needed employment in the construction, manufacturing and building service industries. Bill 121 would inhibit these investments being made.

Now the interesting thing is how the natural gas industry's awareness of Bill 121 came about. They were putting all their time and energy into Bill 118, which is a piece of energy legislation right now before this Legislature. Then around five or six weeks ago, when they were talking to people in the industry and people who were manufacturing the fuel substitution and people in the apartment industry, they suddenly became aware of Bill 121, whose objectives are diametrically opposed to the provision of energy efficiency and energy conservation.

I'd like to read into the record a letter from the Ontario Natural Gas Association signed by the president, Paul Pinnington. Madam Minister, I presume you've seen this letter by now because it is dated May 15. The letter was addressed to the minister.

"I am writing this letter on behalf of the member companies of the Ontario Natural Gas Association (ONGA) to express our serious concerns regarding Bill 121, An Act to revise the Law related to Residential Rent Regulation. In particular, we firmly believe that sections 23 to 24 of the bill represent a real disincentive for property owners and managers to initiate capital improvements which effect savings in energy costs. In our view, such a disincentive is not in the public interest.

"Energy efficiency and conservation make economic, social and environmental sense. As a result governments, industry and the public have facilitated significant energy efficiency and conservation measures in buildings which ultimately have reduced operating costs. In recent months, ONGA has been working with the ministries of Housing and Energy to implement such measures. Bill 121, however, could inhibit the implementation of equipment retrofit or conversion programs if a reduction in operating costs for energy in a rental unit could lead to a reduction in rent. This seems to be at cross-purposes with other government policies, particularly the energy efficiency and conservation thrust of the Ministry of Energy, and including Bill 118, An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act.

"In the November 1990 speech from the throne the government announced new energy directions for the province of Ontario to protect the environment while ensuring that the province continues to have a reliable supply of energy at reasonable prices. The goal is to achieve significant improvements in energy efficiency, not just for a few individual consumers but for the province as a whole. The year 2000 has been established as a target date for Ontario to become North America's leader in energy-efficient practices and technologies.

"A year ago the Ministry of Energy presented for public consultation its draft framework for a comprehensive energy efficiency and conservation policy. The ministry's proposed policy framework included a series of strategic principles, including:

"'Ontario must achieve as much energy efficiency potential as is feasible. This means reducing the financial, institutional, information and technological barriers that currently discourage greater improvements in energy efficiency.'" Note, Mr Chair, that the words "financial barriers" are included in that particular framework policy. The framework policy continued:

"'energy efficiency/conservation is the first priority for meeting Ontario's requirements for energy services...,'" and third,

"'government, business and individual consumers must be partners in this effort to achieve the greatest levels of energy efficiency.'"

The president of the Ontario Natural Gas Association continues and concludes his letter: "In talking recently to our customers we believe that as a result of Bill 121 property owners and managers may decide not to make a capital

investment to replace or upgrade their energy facilities until just prior to the end of its life expectancy. In addition, they will likely invest in less efficient equipment, which may require a lower capital cost but result in higher operating costs.

"Investment in energy efficiency improvements creates employment in the construction, manufacturing and building service industries. Efficiency improvements in Ontario will reduce the demand for electricity and assist Ontario Hydro in meeting its demand-side management objectives." The third point was, "As well, energy efficiency and conservation lead to reduced atmospheric emissions and a cleaner environment.

"We regret that we were not aware of the existence of Bill 121 until recently, as we would have appreciated the opportunity to share our views with the standing committee of the Legislature which considered the legislation. However, we would be very interested in meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss our concerns in greater detail."

1550

The minister was sent this letter on May 15—I suspect it was delivered the same day—requesting a meeting on this important issue. I also happen to know that the minister's office was in communication with other parties who were very distressed about the energy conservation measures in this bill, or lack thereof. The irony of all this is that what the Ministry of Housing has done with this bill does not meet with the approval of the Ministry of Energy, and the Ministry of Energy officials are very supportive of the amendments that are tabled with this House right now to ensure that energy conservation is a priority.

I am delighted that the Minister of Energy is in the House right now, because I know he is trying with every effort to ensure that energy conservation is a priority in this province. But what we have here is a scenario where the right hand and the left hand are not working together. It was very clear when we had the Ministry of Energy appear before the Bill 121 committee back in January that the Ministry of Energy bureaucrats who appeared were very uncomfortable with what was happening. I am most distressed that the Minister of Housing did not consult with and heed what the Ministry of Energy was saying.

If you look at the energy policy of the Ministry of Energy and, hence, of this government, we have set targets of the year 2000, and it is made very clear in the framework that in order to achieve these targets we would need a partnership with government and industry and consumers. Everybody has to play a part. But what the government has said through its other arm, the Ministry of Housing, is, "Yes, we think that people should play a part and play a role, but only the landlords." I think we as consumers should be playing a part, whether tenants or householders.

I would like to give you an example that was provided to me of a 100-suite apartment building and what the energy cost differential would be if there was a conversion from electric heat to natural gas; not only heat, obviously all aspects of the utilities. I have actually two aspects of it. One is if it were the conventional equipment that replaced it and the other is if it were high-efficiency.

In the conventional natural gas equipment that would replace the electrical equipment, the estimated annual energy cost—and you remember this is a 100-unit apartment building—for electricity is \$22,833. The estimated annual energy cost for natural gas is \$8,079. The annual difference is \$14,754.

In the second example, where it is a high-efficiency piece of equipment that is installed, the estimated annual energy cost is still \$22,833 for electricity, but the estimated annual energy cost for natural gas lessens to \$5,797, leading to an annual difference of \$17,036.

In both the scenarios I have brought up this afternoon, the one where the landlord doesn't even intend to go for capital expenditures and a rent increase resulting for it, and also in the other scenario where the landlord does, it is extremely important that we create an incentive to do it. I say again to the minister, what incentive is there when we have an incredibly complex piece of legislation? You have a whole set of hoops, bureaucratic rules and regulations and personnel that a person has to go through, whether landlord or tenant, in order to go through rent review. It opens the hatches for rent reductions in other areas, and yet at the same time, after the landlord has made these considerable expenditures, the tenants may, and the operative word is "may," go for a reduction in their rent due to the cost savings.

I really do hope that the minister will take a second look at it. I know that the ministry had been looking at energy conservation, and quite frankly I was very disappointed that what came out of the so-called thought-bending processes in the Ministry of Housing was two words in its amendment, "and water." As valuable as it is to add water conservation to the list, and I'm glad they did that, it certainly does not address the problem of providing incentives.

The other aspect I'd like to share with you today regarding water and energy conservation is an article that appeared in *Now Magazine* from the May 21-27 issue of this year. It's called "High-Rise Conserving Zapped":

"A minor clause in the NDP's new rent control bill will 'absolutely slam the door shut' on energy conservation in apartment blocks, says Bob Tamblyn, chair of Engineering Interface.

"Under the new law, tenants can demand their share"—not only their share, but the entire share—"of any water and electricity savings.

"Though this looks like a win for tenants, 'It's a lose-lose situation for tenants and the environment,' says Steve Vaccaro, president of EcoMatrix.

"Tamblyn and Vaccaro run new-breed energy savings companies that feature a 'pay from savings' sales pitch that guarantees something for nothing.

"In a typical high-rise, Vaccaro will install water-efficient toilets, showerheads and faucets in 200 units for 'free.'"

So remember, Madam Minister, in this particular instance—and this is not in the article, but for the minister's edification—the landlord is not going to be paying the cost. Therefore the tenants don't pay the cost of the installation because the company is doing this.

To return to the article: "With no effort or lifestyle changes from tenants, the landlord's water and heating bill is cut \$20,000 a year. Vaccaro's one-time fee, usually around \$24,000, is paid strictly out of the savings. After that, the landlord pockets the difference." Again I diverge from the article for one moment—but not according to how Bill 121 is in its current form.

"Since water is heavily subsidized," the article continues, "city taxpayers save as much as the landlord. And Ontario Hydro saves the electricity wasted in the production of chlorine for sewage treatment—chlorine is an energy-intensive product based on cracking salt with electric charges—and in pumping water needlessly across the city. Water treatment and handling is Toronto's second-biggest electrical load.

"Tamblyn works out a similar 'pay from savings' contract for electricity. 'Free of charge,' he installs efficiency lightbulbs, stairwell lights with motion detectors, better controls on fans, and weatherproofing. He is paid back out of savings made over five years.

"The unique financing system that opens doors to new customers is closed out by the new law. Tenants will be able to demand a rebate for any water or electricity savings, forcing landlords to pay out twice, once to their tenants and a second time to the energy-saving company.

"It's not likely many landlords will opt for conservation at this price.

"But the ministry remains unconvinced by the lobbying efforts of these energy-saving companies, according to Housing ministry policy adviser Tim Welch.

"It still is fair to share savings from energy conservation," he says."

Where's the share in that? Where's the incentive? is more to the point. If the Ministry of Housing continues with the bill in its present form—and maybe I'm wasting my voice: Maybe, on the one hand, the Minister of Housing has actually reconsidered and is willing to consider the Liberal caucus amendments on the energy situation; on the other hand, maybe the minister isn't listening because the minister doesn't intend to accept our amendments; or maybe the minister is listening but she just is not convinced this is the right way to go.

See, Madam Minister, I've even given you a face-saving option. Except it doesn't save face, because if the bureaucratic red tape at the Ministry of Housing is preventing energy conservation and water conservation, then you are not doing your part as part of this government to meet the targets set by the Ministry of Energy. You are not doing your part to ensure that partnership exists and that partnership works.

I wait with bated breath for the minister's comments, when she will tell us she is indeed supporting the Liberal Party amendment to section 24 and will bring peace, prosperity and conservation to the province.

1600

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** A question, Mr Chair.

**The Chair:** Point of order?

**Mrs Marland:** A point of order of process: Does the minister wish to respond to the critic for the Liberal caucus? I don't know what the preference is for how this is going to be dealt with now this afternoon.

**The Chair:** It's up to you to decide. The member for Eglinton had the floor. The time has been divided equally. If she wishes to ask questions to the minister, she's free to do so. Is this your wish, the member for Eglinton?

**Ms Poole:** The minister is free to do whatever she wants with her time. I'd be pleased to hear a response.

**The Chair:** So whoever wants to take the floor.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** I wasn't clear whether the member for Mississauga South wanted to speak on the same point; if so, I would have permitted her to go ahead. If she wishes to raise another point, then I will respond to some of the issues that have been raised by Ms Poole.

The sections of the bill that we're dealing with are sections 15 and 24. Ms Poole is referring specifically to an amendment we've put forward which adds water conservation to the measures that can be undertaken by a landlord and justify an above-guideline application by the landlord.

I'd like to point out that there are two ways in which a landlord can undertake energy conservation measures. One is to make an application for work done to create energy savings or water conservation savings, as they may be. Under section 15, the landlord can make an application which can be for up to 3% above guideline and that can be for three years in a row for a particular undertaking, as Ms Poole understands. I'm sure she will agree, in the case where the tenants in effect are paying for the cost of the renovation because the landlord gets an above-guideline increase for that purpose, that obviously we would wish in fairness to have the tenants share in the energy savings.

I would point out to her that under section 24, which is the section which applies to a tenant who feels he or she is in a position to ask for a rent decrease because of energy or water conservation, the application will really only have effect once there's an absolute decrease in the cost of the service, either energy use or water use. Given the rising costs both of energy and of water that we can project in the 1990s, we know it's going to have to be a very major undertaking on the part of the landlord to produce an absolute decrease in the amount of energy or water costs the landlord will be paying.

I'm sure she understands, for example, that if there is a cost of \$1,000 for heating in 1992 and in 1993 the landlord undertook a renovation which produced a cost of \$999 in 1993 for the equivalent heating for the apartment, then the tenant would be able to apply for \$1 in the decrease in the cost. In the meantime, the landlord might well have saved energy costs of up to 10%; we might be talking about \$100 in a situation like this. I'm sure she'll agree that in a situation like this one, where the landlord is able to avoid increasing energy costs and there is an absolute decrease in the energy costs the landlord is going to pay for the apartment, and the tenant has helped finance the renovation, the tenant should have some share in the energy saving. Whether or not the behaviour of the tenant has changed,

the tenant has in this situation, through the application of the landlord for an above-guideline increase, invested in that energy renovation.

She raises another question, the question of the energy companies which will come in and make arrangements with an owner, charge the owner nothing and will recoup their payments out of the energy savings that are accrued because of the energy renovation. We are starting now, fortunately, to see a real industry developing in this kind of undertaking. It's very important to our economy and it is something our government is very interested in encouraging not only in private dwellings but also within our own, those housing units for which we are responsible in the province.

Consumers' Gas is also starting to talk about making similar kinds of arrangements. It's these kinds of contracts she has raised as the huge issue and she colours it with all kinds of discussions of intransigent bureaucrats and heavy red tape at the door of the ministry and so on and so on.

**Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Government House Leader):** Green tape.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** The House leader points out that we might call it green tape; anyhow, she called it red tape.

We are very interested in promoting this part of the energy conservation industry and we are very interested in seeing that it flourishes within the private sector, in fact in the private rental sector. We feel there is no inhibition in the legislation that is before us today, either in section 15 or in section 24, to the operations of these kinds of arrangements in private rental accommodation. We have been having meetings with these energy-saving companies and we are meeting with Consumers' Gas.

She shouldn't have nightmares about bureaucrats who won't blink and ministers who are afraid of losing face. She should just relax about all these concerns she has and assume that this minister and this government are quite dedicated and have the assistance of a quite dedicated staff in making sure that the arrangements that can be made by such companies to the benefit of landlords and to the benefit of tenants are not going to be inhibited by section 15 or section 24 of the bill.

We feel we can make arrangements through regulation that will indicate quite clearly that in the situations where tenants are not being asked to pay for the energy investments that are being made, where the landlord is in fact working out an arrangement with an energy-saving company, there's just not going to be a problem in terms of the operation of the legislation.

If I could add one other word, Mr Chair, it has been a matter of great irritation to me that the opponents of this legislation have been running around the countryside assuring all kinds of water conservation and energy conservation companies that the passage of Bill 121 is going to present great big roadblocks to investment by landlords. Landlords have been going around, FRPO has been going around suggesting that there are going to be great big roadblocks put in the way of effective and financially sound energy investments in residential apartments in Ontario.

1610

There are companies, for example, which produce a little piece of equipment called a water dam which fits over the tubes inside a toilet tank and prevents the whole toilet tank from flushing down each time the knob is pushed, hence saving perhaps half, perhaps two thirds of the water normally used in a toilet flush. It has come to the point where the companies that have been producing and distributing these dams in Ontario have had lobbyists against this bill assure them that it was impossible for them to invest in these \$20 water dams because we had removed all incentive for landlords to buy these pieces of equipment. Give me a break. This is a \$20 piece of equipment. I'm not advertising it; I can't assure its quality.

**Mrs Marland:** I got one for \$12.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** You got one for \$12, and I'm sure they're produced for much less. But for anyone with a straight face and with any—really, it is indescribably irritating to me that landlords should be telling the distributors of these pieces of equipment that they can't be used in private rental accommodation in Ontario because Bill 121 makes it impossible.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Bill 121 has a very generous guideline built into it, and any landlord who can't afford the \$12 per apartment or per toilet, or the \$20 I paid for one for my office, any landlord who can't afford that out of the very generous guideline can actually apply for an above-guideline increase if he or she can justify that the 2% within the guideline that is supposed to be used for such purposes has in fact been spent on something necessary under this legislation. For anyone to tell people in the energy conservation business and the water conservation business that these simple—and I hope they'll prove to be very effective—additions to our tools for energy and water conservation are ruled out economically by this legislation is just absolutely revolting.

I hope no members of the Legislature will join in that very unethical kind of talk around this province. I hope that whenever they hear it, and we hear it all over this province, they will make sure that people understand there is nothing in 121 that will justify that kind of position and that in fact 121 provides mechanisms that will very easily allow landlords to purchase such equipment, install it and, I hope, join the rest of us in pursuing our energy- and water-saving goals.

**Ms Poole:** The minister may be revolted, but no less than I am by her comments. To bring in garbage about unethical talk is pure stupidity.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** It is unethical.

**Ms Poole:** Oh, give me a break. Rather than degenerate into this type of talk, let's talk about the facts.

First, the minister said, "Well, the tenant has invested." I have given her two specific areas where the tenant has not invested a penny.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** I dealt with those separately.

**Ms Poole:** She says she dealt with them. She didn't deal with them at all. She says there are no inhibitions. Let's take, for instance, the companies that have a financing package in which the landlord will pay for the conservation

measures through the savings. If there aren't any savings, Madam Minister, can you not get it through your head that there is no incentive for a deal? That is called an inhibition.

Second, she said she wishes I would just relax and assume that all is well with the minister and the ministry, that they will be vigilant in taking care of the energy conservation needs of the province. I have a word for that but I'm sure it would be unparliamentary. Instead, I will say that I place absolutely no credence in the minister being vigilant.

The minister has made it clear that she wants only one thing, which she says is that the tenants pay the least amount of rent possible. She doesn't care if those buildings fall down about them. She doesn't care if there's water conservation or energy conservation. She pretends she does, but she doesn't. If she did, when all these issues were brought to her attention she would have brought in some measure to address them. Instead, we have a purely recalcitrant minister who says: "I've made up my mind. Don't bother me with the facts."

She talks about a \$12 valve and says, "I can't understand why any landlord wouldn't want to do that." The estimated cost for an average water conservation package in a 200-unit complex—and that includes not only the valve she talked about but things like low-flow shower-heads; this is just water conservation—is \$25,000 worth of work.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** Shame on you. What scandalous figures.

**Ms Poole:** The minister may make her interjections as she will, but I'm just going to ignore what she says because it is nonsense.

If you take the other side of the equation, the same example I gave you a bit earlier, in a 100-unit building a landlord would incur a loss of more than \$10,000 to convert to gas water heating. So the minister tries to delude us into thinking it's a \$12 valve we're talking about. There is more to water conservation than a \$12 valve. I wish the minister would perhaps broaden her horizons and look beyond the \$12 valve.

The one thing the minister has not even mentioned is the comfort of tenants. If the landlord decides to put in those Thermopane windows or make the building more comfortable through energy conservation, where you achieve both methods at the same time, she doesn't mention the fact that tenants will have a much better lifestyle because of it.

I'm still waiting for the minister to give me an answer to the two examples I gave where there is no capital expenditure put through the rent review system.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** No problem.

**Ms Poole:** She says it's not a problem. It is a problem if tenants can make an application for rent reduction because of extraordinary operating decreases, which they can in sections 23 and 24. That's why we've amended that section—so we can encourage conservation. I think it is shameful that a minister of this government would ignore what we see as very important energy conservation methods,

which her own Minister of Energy also sees as important energy conservation methods.

1620

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** I tried to make it clear when I spoke first in response to Ms Poole's comments that I expect a lot of energy conservation is going to be undertaken without the use of these great arrangements she's talking about and without the use of energy conservation companies. There will be a lot that landlords will do and tenants will pay for, and tenants should share in that case. I said to her quite clearly and I'll say it again, if we think energy savings companies are going to be involved, are going to make savings, we can say by regulation that where they're involved, where there's a particular kind of arrangement made by the landlord, section 24, the application by the tenant, won't apply.

Perhaps I should repeat it again because she does seem caught up with something else right now. I am addressing precisely your point which is that where there are special arrangements, either through the tax system or energy-saving companies, we can by regulation say that section 24 is not applicable.

I don't want to change the bill in the way she suggests, though, because if I do it means that where tenants have been asked to bear the costs of the renovation through the guideline and above-guideline increases they won't be able to share in the benefits they've paid for. Now, is that what she wants? We can look after her concern. I've just explained how. We don't have to rewrite the section in the legislation that will allow the great many renovations tenants will effectively pay for to be shared by tenants. We can simply make sure that, by regulation, we're not going to have applications for decreases in rent where there are special arrangements made which do the financing.

I don't know how come she can't separate these two notions, but I'm not going to let up on my conviction that where the tenant has paid, the tenant shall share.

**Ms Poole:** I'm afraid I don't place a lot of credence or trust in the minister to bring it in, even in the regulations, in the way we feel it is going to be important to energy conservation.

Since we have taken an extensive period of time to discuss energy—because it is important—I want to touch briefly on a number of other amendments the Liberal caucus has tabled. I just want to highlight a few of them. One is the issue of equalization. We've tabled an amendment to section 22.

Equalization is a matter where the landlord may make an application to have two identical units which pay two different rents equalized. Let's take a concrete example. You have two apartments; one pays \$700 in rent, the second pays \$500 in rent. They're identical units in every way. They're on the same floor, they have the same amenities, but they have two different rents. It may be because historically, in one unit, there was a high tenant turnover and every time the tenant left the landlord put the rent up, which happened in the old days before protections were brought in to stop it, and it may be for other reasons.

This is a scenario where the landlord doesn't gain a penny. All the landlord gains is to have the rents equal. One tenant would pay more, the other tenant would pay less. A lot of tenants are very keen to have equalization in this legislation.

This legislation does not contain any provision for equalization. The minister and her minions have hidden behind—and I didn't mean the director of policy; I was referring to other members—the provision that it would legalize illegal units. I can say to the minister that legalizing illegal units has nothing to do with the equation. It is not the point. It is not the point tenants have been making to me when they call and say, "Why can't I do this?" Even at the tenant forum I held in my own riding on Sunday a tenant brought the rent review order up and she said, "Are you telling me that under the new legislation I won't be able to get it equalized?" Unfortunately, that's the case.

The second motion I'd like to speak to is the matter of inadequate maintenance. The minister has provided there'll be a rent penalty for inadequate maintenance. However, there is no definition or criteria attached to what inadequate maintenance is.

I'm sorry, Madam Minister, I'm just not willing to leave it to the discretion of rent officers. We've put in an amendment that the standard of maintenance or repairs is inadequate if it results in substantial non-compliance with an applicable municipal or provincial standard that is substantial and subsisting, to go back to the test in the RRRA, where you look at "substantial, subsisting and non-compliance." It would seem to me that is reasonable and it's a reasonable test.

The third amendment I'd like to draw to your attention is section 18. Under the legislation there is a provision, which I have supported and do support, where a reduction in rent may be obtained by the tenant if there is a reduction in services or facilities, and this to me makes sense.

If there are services or facilities incorporated into the rent that the tenant is deprived of, then there should be ability for the tenant to get a rent reduction. However, there's no incentive for the landlord to restore that service because there's nothing in the legislation that gives the ability to restore the rent to its original level after the service is restored or the facility restored.

I think that's only fair, because in many of the situations what the tenants want is not a reduction in rent; they want the facility or the service. If they want the laundry room to be reopened, it's all well and good to say, "We've taken \$15 off your rent per month because you no longer have a laundry room," but the tenant wants the laundry room back.

One of the other amendments—we've tabled a number but there isn't time to go into them this afternoon—relates to concrete restoration. In an area like concrete restoration, which is intrinsic to the maintenance of our housing stock and which is particularly necessary in large urban areas where we have many underground parking garages, we are very concerned that there be no financial impediment to the landlord from repairing those very extensive and expensive underground parking garage repairs.

Those are just a few of the amendments I'd like to draw to the attention of the House. We have a number of others that are certainly very worthy, but in the limited time I'd like to highlight those ones for the attention of the Legislature.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** A number of items have been raised by Ms Poole. I could address a couple of them.

She spoke first of equalization of rents, as I recollect. She will find that while there are many tenants who would love to see rents equalized—ie, taken down so they would match other rents in the building—tenants who are paying the lesser rents for equivalent kinds of apartment units, in their view, will not be very keen on having rents moved up.

We have found, and I'm sure Ms Poole is aware of this, that in some of the cases where there are great gaps within one building between levels of rent for equivalent apartments there has been a history which would suggest that illegal rents had been taken by landlords in some of those units. In some cases that's very difficult to trace at this stage, given the kind of legislation we've had in the past.

At this stage we feel it is the better part of wisdom and practice to leave rents the way they are and not put tenants or landlords through the incredible kind of recalculation and justification that would be involved in somehow trying to equalize rents within a building. Undoubtedly it will mean some tenants will pay more than others for equivalent units. There are some good reasons for that and there are some reasons that we suspect reflect illegalities. We intend to leave the situation as is because there will be a majority of tenants, I think, who will not wish to have the situation changed drastically, and that is what would be involved.

1630

When it comes to the issue of maintenance, the suggestion that is being made in the amendment put forward by the member for Eglinton would take us right back to the absolutely impossible situation we've lived under in Bill 51. She says with pride that it would restore the kind of definition of maintenance that has existed since 1986, and I can't understand that.

The wording, "the standard of maintenance or repair is inadequate if it results in substantial non-compliance with an applicable municipal or provincial standard that is substantial and subsisting," has meant that there's been practically no enforcement of maintenance standards at all in this province over the last several years.

The member is suggesting that once again unnamed and difficult bureaucrats, leaving out the director of policy of course, who happens to be here and therefore is not going to be designated in such terms, are just unwilling to define what "inadequate" means. In fact, we have suggested in the regulatory policy material we have distributed to members of the committee and widely throughout the province that we will take a regulatory approach that would include such matters as would affect the judgement of a reasonable person who was able to judge that an inadequate standard of maintenance or repair existed.

These things are not so theological and mysterious that we can't talk about them. We do talk about inadequate maintenance in common, everyday language, and I hope you'll take my word for the fact that most tenants in this province feel they know what constitutes adequate maintenance and feel they know what constitutes inadequate maintenance.

Clearly we would be dealing with violations of municipal bylaws, we would be dealing with violations of legislation that had regard to health and safety, we'd be dealing with violations of provincial maintenance standards when those were the only ones that were applicable, and we would also expect that a tenant had made a reasonable effort with the landlord to make sure that the maintenance problem being raised by the tenant was one which had been raised first by the tenant with the landlord, so that the landlord at least was aware

of what the tenant felt to be the problem.

Then we will expect our rent officers, sometimes in conjunction with property standards officers or provincial inspectors, to be able to determine whether maintenance is adequate. That will be part of their duties, and we will expect that they will make decisions around that that will be approved by most reasonable people in this province.

Am I missing other matters that were raised by the member? Oh, concrete restoration. Concrete restoration has constituted one of the great focal points for discussion when it comes to rent review, and it has been suggested time after time that in fact there will be no more concrete restoration in the province of Ontario to time eternal if Bill 121 becomes legislation.

We believe, having done the calculations and the costs, that in many instances the work that needs to be undertaken to maintain and restore even expensive areas of a building, such as underground parking, balcony work and elevators, will be provided for adequately in the above-guideline applications that we can expect under Bill 121.

There may be cases in fact where landlords will have to expect to contribute some of their own moneys as investors into such renovations and repairs, but that's not something that I think we should all faint about. Landlords are in business. Landlords, I suppose, expect at some point to put in equity in order to build equity.

We do feel the allowance that has been made, both within the guideline and the above-guideline mechanism that exists in Bill 121, will in the great majority of cases provide the billions of dollars that will be needed over the next decade to make sure that large apartment buildings, particularly those built in the period of the 1960s and 1970s where elevators, balconies and underground parking were just beginning to be introduced into Ontario as building technologies—some of those buildings require an awful lot of work now, but we expect there will be billions of dollars generated within the application of Bill 121, which will provide sufficiently for the renovation to be done in the majority of buildings.

I am concerned, overall, that we look at the stock of rental accommodation in Ontario and provide over the longer run, where there are difficulties and where there are problems, a mechanism directed specifically towards

them. I know this will cause the member for Mississauga South to laugh and scoff again, but I intend to reflect further on this matter in the hope that over the next few months—it might even take a year—we will be able to come up with some programs which will address that kind of situation directly. I think I will leave it at that for the moment.

**Mrs Marland:** I'm not really sure whether the process we're going through now in committee of the whole is going to make very much sense to anybody watching or anybody reading. You know, it is probably more methodical when we go through the bill and we each speak to it section by section. I don't know what was in the minds of the House leaders this morning when they decided this would be the format for this afternoon. But since I'm not one of the House leaders, who am I to question the process we are now into?

From my point of view the process is a little frustrating, because the bill is totally frustrating. To try to decide, in the 45 minutes I have left in committee of the whole, which is the greatest priority to address in terms of which is the worst part of this bill at this point in time is a very difficult challenge.

I have some notes I had prepared for the section-by-section process, so I think perhaps the best thing for me to do is to try to proceed through my notes and at the same time address the amendments I had tabled at the beginning of the committee of the whole process.

First, I think we've got to talk about why we are in committee of the whole. Of course those of us who were in the general government committee meeting recognize there was one motion by the Progressive Conservative caucus members that successfully slipped through because the government members were asleep at the switch. That necessitated this committee of the whole proceeding, so that the bill could be reopened and that error on the part of government members is corrected.

1640

It's extremely hypocritical of this NDP government to retract the PC Party's amendment to section 14.1, which passed in general government committee. This amendment extended the scope of a property owner's application for an above-guideline rent increase to include financing costs. The second part of our amendment limited the scope of applications to only those increases in financing arrangements that are legitimate. We perceive such increases as a cost of doing business for a property owner as the market is not always stable or predictable.

I questioned the minister during clause-by-clause about a hypothetical situation in which "the current market rate of interest is substantially higher than the mortgage that is presently on that property, for example, at the end of a 15- or a 20-year mortgage which happens to have been at 5% or 6%, which is possible. That property owner goes for new financing and the current fair market rate of interest is obviously not 5% or 6% any more, but maybe 10% or 11%. How does the minister anticipate that the property owner going for that new financing at twice the rate of interest can afford that interest without some allowance

through the rents?" The minister replied, "The landlord will obviously have to manage his or her financial affairs." It sounded as though she thought property owners controlled the setting of interest rates.

The minister is driving the private sector out of the rental housing market through this legislation. As the bill has created an air of uncertainty for investment in the rental industry, what has scared the banks and investment firms away from supporting and working with property owners is the fact that once this legislation passes no property owner will ever again be guaranteed a minimum rent, let alone the standard maximum rent, under this act.

A property owner can now have the rent of a single unit or a whole complex reduced under the following circumstances: (1) if there has been a reduction in services or facilities, (2) if there has been a decrease in municipal taxes or the cost of services, (3) if the property owner installs any conservation measures, (4) if there is neglect or inadequate maintenance of the property or (5) if the property owner applies for an above-guideline increase based on a capital expenditure.

The issue of costs no longer borne compounds the effect of a continually fluctuating rent payment. I will further address the problems of the measures for costs no longer borne when we come to the appropriate sections of the bill.

The next major point I will address is the fact that in the original version of the bill a property owner was supposedly entitled to 2% within the guideline amount for the undertaking of minor capital expenditures. Bill 121 allows for an annual rent increase each year for all rental units based on a three-year moving average called the rent control index. This annual increase covers such factors as inflation and minimally increased taxes or service charges. The yearly increase under Bill 121 would be 55% of this average, plus 2% for capital expenditures.

However, during clause-by-clause the ministry introduced an amendment to subsections 23(3) to 20(6) which stipulated that this 2% within-the-guideline amount would not be guaranteed each year. If a property owner applies for an above-guideline increase, he not only has to justify the use of the requested above-guideline increase but also must justify the use of the 2% in the guideline. To draw a comparison to another ill-conceived NDP idea, its version of the rent review process is Bob Rae's casino, where property owners spend a dollar to get back 60 cents.

The use of the 2% of the guideline in this manner compounds the financial damage to the property owner and the structural damage to the complex or unit. This 2% will normally be used to replace or repair minor items in the unit or complex. Examples of its use would be the purchase and installation of a new stove, new carpets, painting or other minor repair work. Every tenant and property owner can testify that there are always minor repairs that need to be undertaken each year. The 2% was supposed to accommodate them. If this 2% must be rolled into the amount required to qualify for an above-guideline increase, this means minor repairs will be passed over or neglected, to use another expression, in order that major capital expenditures can be undertaken.

Again, this point ties in with the lack of a definition of "neglect" in Bill 121. As the bill stands, property owners will be charged with neglect in maintaining their buildings if this is the way to qualify for above-guideline increases.

Another irony is that the amount the property owner will eventually receive for the capital expenditure—including the 2%, that will work out to 5% if the property owner qualifies for the maximum 3% above-guideline increase—will not even be sufficient in most cases to cover a portion of the property owner's capital expenditure. So the scenario is that a property owner either (1) pursues the upkeep of the building through small repairs every year and ignores the larger projects, only to be penalized for neglect or (2) sacrifices the normal upkeep in order to qualify for the maximum above-guideline increase, accrues an enormous debt, still gets charged with neglect and most likely loses the building. Long before the Bob Rae government considered legalized gambling, it initiated legislation that will have the property owners of the province playing Russian roulette.

Another vital issue is the role of rent officers and their training. I did make some comments about this part of the bill and the relationship of rent officers to the execution of the whole bill earlier this week. Sections 20 to 32 outline their functions, while section 126 defines appointments. I spoke at length about the rent officers during committee because I'm very concerned about their training and the fact that they have to interpret the various ambiguous sections of the bill and its inadequate and/or non-existent definitions. As I stated during clause-by-clause, who is going to be trained to be able to look at a building and decide on the structural integrity of that building?

1650

Another of my major concerns is that the bill contains no incentives for property owners who wish to undertake renovations for the purpose of energy conservation. During clause-by-clause I introduced an amendment to subsection 24(4) which would have ensured that property owners who had undertaken capital expenditures, which included the implementation of energy-conserving features were allowed to realize these costs before the rent could be decreased by a tenant application. As the legislation currently stands, it is faster for a tenant to apply for and receive a decrease in rent than it is for the property owner to apply for and receive an increase as a result of capital expenditures, including the installation of energy-conserving features.

I'd like to make some comments particularly about energy conservation. When we moved the amendment to section 135 and also to section 24—and there again, this is the problem of trying to speak to the whole bill all at once and skipping all over the place—subsection 24(4) was one of our amendments. The reason for that amendment was that it would have exempted from an extraordinary decrease application any implementation of energy conservation measures that had been approved by a rent officer through an advance determination.

When we talk about energy conservation it actually covers a number of types of energy and various methods of conservation. Ontario's natural gas industry is concerned

about Bill 121 because it believes property owners and managers may decide not to make a capital investment to replace or upgrade their energy facilities until just prior to the end of their life expectancy. In addition, they will likely invest in less efficient equipment, which may require a lower capital cost but result in higher operating costs. Investment in energy efficiency and conservation improvements creates much-needed employment in the construction, manufacturing and building service industries. Bill 121 would inhibit, not be helpful, in this regard.

As well, efficiency improvements in Ontario will reduce the demand for electricity and assist Ontario Hydro in meeting its demand-side management objectives. On the environmental side, energy efficiency and conservation lead to reduced atmospheric emissions and a cleaner environment. Energy efficiency and conservation are the highest energy priorities for Ontario. Bill 121 is at cross-purposes with government policy, particularly that espoused by the ministries of Energy and the Environment—rather a coincidence. I would point out to you, Mr Chair, that here in this delightful socialist government we have three ministries which don't agree—rather an irony that the Minister of Housing is at odds with her colleagues around the cabinet table, the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Energy.

In the November 1990 speech from the throne the government announced new energy directions for the province of Ontario. These new directions were designed to protect the environment while ensuring reliable supplies of energy at reasonable prices. The new energy directions include new initiatives on conservation and intensified efforts by Ontario Hydro on energy efficiency and conservation. Natural gas utilities, in conjunction with other energy supply and service companies, will be expected to be central players in achieving the government's objectives through the delivery of energy-efficient services and programs.

The Ministry of Energy has said that the government will consider regulatory measures to encourage wiser use of energy if this results in clearer long-term economic and environmental benefits to Ontario and the consumer. For example, restrictions have already been placed on the use of electric resistance heating in new social housing funded by the Ontario government where undue emphasis on first costs was leading to uneconomic fuel choices. This should encourage high energy efficiency in the end use.

Fuel substitution programs should be designed to ensure that where customers switch from electricity a high priority is given to the installation of high-efficiency equipment and associated conservation measures. Fuel substitution initiatives, like other demand-management programs, should reduce the costs of energy service and lower customers' total energy bills.

The Ministry of Energy has established the year 2000 as a target date for Ontario to become North America's leader in energy efficiency practices and technologies. To reach this goal, Ontario must achieve as much economic energy efficiency potential as is feasible. This means reducing the financial, institutional, information and technical barriers that currently discourage greater improvement in energy efficiencies.

Since June 1991 the Ministry of Energy, in consultation with other ministries, I guess with the exception of the Ministry of Housing, has been developing a framework for a comprehensive policy for energy efficiency in conservation. The policy framework would provide the overall strategic direction for energy efficiency policies and activities in order to achieve greater levels of efficiency and conservation. The framework includes a series of strategic principles, including: "Ontario must achieve as much energy efficiency potential as is feasible. This means reducing the financial, institutional, information and technological barriers that currently discourage greater improvements in energy efficiency."

Clearly Bill 121 is at odds with this framework, because it would seem to erect the kind of barriers that the Ministry of Energy is trying to reduce. One final part of that framework, which I didn't read and I will now read, says that "government, business and individual consumers must be partners in this effort to achieve the greatest levels of energy efficiency."

What an irony when we can't even get the three ministers to be partners. We've got the Minister of Energy and the Minister of the Environment at odds with the Minister of Housing, because her Bill 121 conflicts directly with the initiatives of the Minister of Energy and the Minister of the Environment.

If a building manager, property owner or landlord needs to consult his lawyer to figure what he or she can or cannot do in terms of energy conservation in a building, it doesn't really matter; he or she simply won't do it.

1700

My next major concern is the lack of an appeal system except on points of law, a serious oversight in the procedures section of the bill, part II. I did speak on this issue in this committee of the whole House two days ago. Bill 51 allowed for an appeal process which was favourably viewed by both property owners and tenants. The Liberal amendment which addressed this inadequacy in Bill 121 was a duplication of the process in Bill 51. My party supported the Liberal amendment due to the fact that in our consultations with property owners and tenant groups no one could suggest any valid improvements to the old system. As the adage says, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

The Minister of Transportation saw this wisdom when he answered a question by the member for York Mills regarding licensing offices. Obviously his colleague the Minister of Housing does not share his views. It is unconscionable that Bill 121 does not include an appeal process. An appeal process has been central to the system of rent control since its institution. As I said earlier, due to this legislation's lack of definition and directives for those who enforce it, an appeal process is required more so for this legislation than for any which preceded it.

It is absolutely unheard-of that the process of approving rent increases and decreases based on inadequate definitions can be arbitrarily decided by one person, the rent officer, or, as I choose to call this incredibly powerful person, this incredibly knowledgeable person, we would hope—but we have no idea yet what in the fullness of time

the actual qualifications and training of this rent officer will be, whose training the minister cannot even describe.

Our party introduced an amendment concerning the continuation of the 2% in the guideline for capital expenditures. This is an issue I discussed earlier. With the introduction of the government amendment, which allows the process of applying costs no longer borne to capital expenditures, the guarantee of this 2% was further threatened. The process of determining costs no longer borne involves defining a capital expenditure as a capital component of the maximum rent. Thus the expenditure becomes factored into the maximum unit rent and its useful life is amortized. The cost is lifted out of the maximum rent calculation when its useful life has been achieved, creating a decrease in the rent until the property owner is able to replace the item with another cost.

The current interpretation of the bill also allows the standard 2% of the guideline normally used for capital expenditures to be lifted out of the calculation. This means not only that the property owner loses the financial recuperation of the capital expenditure, even though it is unlikely that the cost has been recovered since the useful life tables do not adequately reflect the longevity of certain items, but that he also loses the annual 2% guideline to which he is rightfully entitled.

The Ministry of Housing recognized the significance of this lose-lose situation and agreed to support an amendment of this nature. The minister refused my initial amendment on the ground that it was worded in a too complex manner. However, after intensive negotiations with the ministry staff and legal counsel, the revised amendment to section 135 was only subtly altered in the wording.

Once more, I want to place on the record the definition of those amendments our caucus has placed in committee of the whole. The first one I addressed was subsection 21(6.1). That is simply the amendment that gives the rent officer the power to extend the carry-forward period in circumstances where an advanced determination is related to a capital expenditure for the purposes of implementing energy or water conservation measures. From my comments on energy conservation, which includes water as well, I think it's very obvious why we are placing that amendment.

The next amendment was to subsection 24(4). This one I have also previously referred to. It's the amendment which exempts, from an extraordinary decrease application, any implementation of energy conservation measures that would have been approved by a rent officer through an advanced determination.

Clause 29(2)(c.1): This amendment gives the rent officer the ability to determine in advance the effects of a capital expenditure based on implementing energy or water conservation measures.

Subsection 135(1.1) is the amendment I have just been addressing, which is about the 2% guideline.

I want to just return for a couple of moments to again emphasize why our Progressive Conservative caucus has been so concerned as we've gone through Bill 121 in the general government committee and again now in committee of the whole House. I think everyone has to be con-

cerned about a government of any name or political stripe which brings in a piece of legislation that is subsequently given over 200 amendments by the people who drafted the legislation in the first place. You have to wonder what is going on in the Ministry of Housing, whereby it would be in such a rush to bring in such a poorly drafted bill that in turn required over 200 amendments. It makes the whole process of introducing bills quite a farce, I would suggest.

Yet when one looks at the answers the minister has given us from time to time as we have gone through these committee hearings, one perhaps begins to understand the confusion in the ministry, because the minister herself is obviously totally confused also; and since we are in a situation where of course the direction to ministry staff comes from the top, then I guess we have to look at the top.

I remember one day, in fact it was November 28, in the committee when I was asking the minister about whether or not she thought the age of buildings was relative to the cost of repairs and renovations to those buildings. I thought it was really significant that while we were trying to argue that property owners needed some special consideration if they own older buildings, that there is obviously a greater cost of renovation, a greater cost of maintenance and general upkeep if the building is older, when I asked the minister, the answer she gave me was, and I quote from the November 28 Hansard of the standing committee: "The age of the building is not really relevant to this question. Just because a building is 30 years old does not mean it is going to cost more in repairs or to operate."

1710

The age of the building is not the real question, okay? It is important that the people of Ontario understand what this minister is saying. But at the same time that the minister advised the committee that the age of buildings is not relevant and at the same time that she said that because a building was 30 years old it didn't mean it was going to cost more to repair or to operate—

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** Read the whole thing.

**Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview):** Read on.

**Mrs Marland:** It's great that now the seals have wakened up. They don't like it when you start putting something on the record that is correct.

But at the same time as the record in Hansard shows that was the minister's answer, I obtained from the Ministry of Housing, dated February 1991—from February to November; this was obviously published some eight months earlier. You would have thought the minister might be familiar within that time frame with what the facts really are. Here is a consultation paper from the Ministry of Housing which says: "Age of building has an important bearing on the condition of the rental stock. Generally, the older the building, the greater the need for repairs and maintenance."

Here is a publication from the Ministry of Housing which proves that if the minister would leave the ministry staff alone, they could probably get on with their job quite competently, because the ministry staff agree with the point I was trying to make on behalf of property owners in this province, which is that if you do have an older building,

it is going to cost more for maintenance and more to operate. The ministry's own statement, the document from the Ministry of Housing, confirms that what I said is correct. At the same time, eight months later, the minister tries to tell the committee that the age of a building is not a factor.

I wouldn't use the words "trying to mislead the committee," because that is not acceptable in this House, but in all sincerity, when somebody asks the Minister of Housing a question, you would expect that her answer would agree with published papers from her own ministry. Obviously she doesn't know what is going on in her ministry, and she certainly doesn't understand what the age of a building has to do with the cost of operating it; although another time in committee we did have an exchange where I think she said she lives in an older house herself. But she admitted that her older house had a new furnace and double-glazed windows, so she had made or perhaps someone before she owned it had made those improvements to the house.

I give that to you as an example of the kind of frustration we experienced all the way through the process with this bill, the fact that there were so many government amendments. The bill was totally a mess. It was so poorly drafted it should have been withdrawn. We're here trying to fix it up again. It's not going to get improved. It's going to be passed because we have a majority government.

We're very fortunate in Ontario because we're blessed with this majority socialist government, which has a mindset. They know where they want to go in terms of housing policies in this province. They don't care about the fact that today you could go out and rent a bachelor apartment for \$420 a month in Ontario at the same time that this government is building bachelor apartments that cost the taxpayers of this province \$1,924 a month. But this Minister of Housing doesn't care about that. That's total irresponsibility on behalf of the people who live and pay taxes in this province.

The other area I have to come back to is the people who are going to enforce this bill, and again, I come back to the rent officers. I can assure you that when we received a letter from the minister while we were sitting in committee some time during February, I think it was—this was an undated letter. We never did get the actual date of this letter, so I can't identify the letter for you by giving you the date. It was circulated to the committee Chair without a date on it. The letter is from the minister, in response to questions I had placed about training and job descriptions for rent officers. I quote from the letter:

"At the standing committee on general government last week, I undertook to provide the members with information on expected workload under the proposed Rent Control Act, staff training and job descriptions for rent officers.

"As I explained to the committee, until the provisions of Bill 121 are finalized, it is difficult to predict the exact workload, the type of staff need and the job description for rent officers."

A paragraph further down says:

"In developing new job descriptions for rent officers and others under a rent control system, elements of current similar jobs are being reviewed."

The final comment is:

"More specific training on the elements of the rent control system will be undertaken over the next year."

This is the scariest part of all, because this is dealing with the enactment and implementation of this bill. Here we have a letter from the minister saying: "We are still developing the job descriptions. The elements of current similar jobs are being reviewed." This is at a time when we're about to finish the committee hearings on this incredible piece of legislation, Bill 121. At this point, this minister and her staff are still reviewing what the job description will be and, more specifically, the training on the elements of the rent control system will be undertaken in the next year.

All I can say to the people of Ontario is good luck, because you're going to have this bill whether you're a tenant or a property owner, and you're going to have this person called a rent officer—mind you, I wouldn't worry about it, because there are only going to be 110, unless they've revised that figure. We've got 1.3 million units that are rented in this province; we're going to have 110 rent officers.

Over the next year we're going to be reviewing what their job description is and what training they're going to need; on-the-job training while there are millions of dollars of investment at stake here; on-the-job training for the implementation of this bill by the rent officer, the wizard, the person who is going to be all-powerful, all-knowledgeable, the person who carries the greatest responsibility. The worst part is that whatever his or her decision is on any issue for that tenant or that property owner, there is no appeal of that decision.

I will complete my comments later. Thank you, Madam Chair.

1720

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** I will try and make a few brief comments in response to the remarks by the member for Mississauga South. She suggested that we were intent in this legislation on driving private apartment owners out of the rental market.

Mr Chair, I would like to assure you, members of this Legislature and any members of the public who may have listened through the remarks of the member for Mississauga South that this is the farthest possible thing from our minds. This legislation indeed tries to set up a system that will regulate rents, that will control rent increases in a reasonable manner and provide at the same time that landlords will have the capital they need to undertake work in their buildings, maintain the buildings properly and make a profit.

I think it's worth noting once again that the difficulties that have been experienced by people who in days past would have invested in the rental market in Ontario cannot be ascribed to this legislation, or indeed to rent control or rent review legislation of any kind, if we compare to British Columbia, for example, where there's been no such legislation over a period of many years. In fact there has been mighty little private rental construction undertaken.

That market has had much more to do with the cost of land, the interest costs and the difficulties in getting private

rental accommodation in large urban centres to deliver a profit for a developer. We have seen, in Ontario and in other provinces where condominium legislation has been available, that the condominium mechanism for generating capital investment in residential accommodation for rental purposes has produced rental accommodation in a different way than we used to know it in the past.

The member mentioned the difficulties that will be confronted by a landlord who, under this legislation, will not be able to claim the cost of financing for investments. We have decided this is something that should not be borne by renters in this province. She has suggested this creates a terrible hardship for our landlords who have, for a period of time, carried mortgages which were at a below-market rate and who now suddenly have to renegotiate and are going to find a big difference in the mortgage rates they will be paying.

That's true, but I think we have to understand that the landlord who has had a below-market rate over a period of time has benefited from that. We don't think tenants should be called upon to carry the financing and refinancing of apartment buildings. She raised the question about the role of the rent officer at several points in her discussion. At one point she asked the question, "Who's going to look at the building and decide on the structural integrity of the building?"

I think that deserves a direct answer: a property standards inspector. We do not expect that rent control officers under this legislation will in fact be people who will decide on the structural integrity of buildings; we do expect they will be able to assess whether there has been adequate maintenance. There's a big difference. Tenants will be able under this legislation to make an application for a reduction in rent if maintenance is inadequate. That is to be determined by the rent control officer.

If the tenant is in a building where a property standards officer has decided that there is a problem with the structural integrity of the building and the building has a work order placed against it, that will be carried out by a property standards officer. If there is an outstanding work order against the property, under this legislation the tenant can expect that the landlord will have any application for increase, either within the guideline or above the guideline, declared null and void. The landlord will not be allowed to raise the rent if there is an outstanding work order on the building.

Both Ms Poole and the member for Mississauga South stressed that there was a great wrenching division between me and my colleague the Minister of Energy on the question of measures contained in this bill and how they would affect energy renovations in the future in rental accommodation in Ontario. This is not the case.

Mr Charlton and I are of one mind on the need for energy conservation, the methods we should be pursuing in Ontario to assure energy conservation and the fact that this legislation provides a very happy home for energy conservation in rental accommodation in Ontario. For the benefit of those distressed members opposite, I'm sure he will forgive me for sharing with members of the Legislature a little note that he dropped by my desk a short while

ago, having heard comments from opposite. I'll quote, "Ev, maybe you might think that if escos can do the retrofits and pay for them out of savings that perhaps landlords could too and avoid the whole rent review process, Brian," which indicates, once again, for anybody who had any doubt, just what a cutting and fine mind we have in our Minister of Energy in Ontario. He's quite correct.

The member for Mississauga South also stressed her concern again, as she put it, that Bill 121 does not include an appeal process. I must say once again, just for those who might not have heard the debate the other day, that in fact Bill 121 has a mechanism which provides for the chief rent administrator, chief rent officer, to decide if there appears to have been a serious error made or if there has been a calculation error made. Under sections 94 and 95 of the legislation there can be a review of the determination that has been made initially after a hearing by the rent officer.

That is not a full-blown, arm's length, pseudo-judicial, semijudicial appeal process, but it will offer much more timely decision-making. I have discovered, after receiving many, many, many, many, many, many, many letters from tenants that they prize timeliness in decisions around rent determinations very highly.

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole):** Not at the cost of no appeal.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** The member for Oriole suggests not at the cost of no appeal. We shall test that. There is of course appeal to the court. I hope there will be few appeals to the court on matters of law. The experience we have had under Bill 51 with a semijudicial appeal process through the rental review board does not inspire my taste for trying it again. I think tenants who have been through that process, while they may have been more or less pleased by the results, which on the whole did not vary much from the initial administrative decisions that were appealed, would certainly agree that the time consumption involved was extraordinary.

The member for Mississauga South also talked about statements I had made earlier in committee about the relationship between the age of buildings and the cost of renovations. What she neglected to do was to go on to explain what I had tried to draw to the attention of members of the committee who, like the member for Mississauga South, were suggesting that age was the key factor.

In fact, there is a period, as it were, in building art in Ontario which roughly speaking encompasses the 1960s and 1970s where we saw the introduction of techniques of high-rise construction that included "modern" elevators, underground parking and extensive use of balconies in construction. There have been a lot of problems with the first generation of those buildings before the techniques that were being applied here in Ontario became as good as they now are. It is that age and size of building which we are finding the most troublesome in terms of the size and cost of renovations those buildings need now.

1730

One further note on the much-maligned rent officers—this poor group of people, these rent officers—most of whom I expect will have proven their abilities and experience

with the Ministry of Housing as rent review officers under our existing legislation.

It was a large point of the member for Mississauga South's concern about how they would operate that their job descriptions weren't all prepared and their training hadn't been undertaken several months back. I'd just like to raise this question: Can you imagine what she would have said had we provided job descriptions for officers whose role was not yet defined in legislation or if we had started training for positions which had not yet legislatively been established? I can imagine the grief and wailing we would have heard from the member for Mississauga South.

**Mrs Caplan:** I'm pleased to rise and participate in the third reading debate of Bill 121. This is committee of the whole. We are discussing now the clauses and amendments coming forward, but I would like to use this opportunity and the few minutes remaining to speak about the process we have gone through and about my constituents in the riding of Oriole where many, almost 50%, of the people who live in the riding of Oriole are renters, tenants. They have a very specific interest in housing policy.

I was sitting thinking about a meeting that was held in the summer of 1990 by Lennox Farrell, the NDP candidate in that election campaign. It was attended by a number of tenant activists who were very much in support of Mr Farrell's candidacy. At that meeting I remember very clearly Mr Farrell standing before a microphone reading out the NDP policy and what they would do if they had the opportunity to reform, the opportunity to change and the opportunity to form the government. This is what he said; this was in the Agenda for People:

"New Democrats would bring in rent control. That means one increase a year based on inflation. There would be no extra bonuses to landlords for capital or financing costs. It's simple, it's fair and it avoids the bureaucracy which has frustrated both tenants and small landlords." That quote was what Lennox Farrell said on that warm summer evening in the summer of 1990 during the election campaign. Since that time we've seen Bill 4 and now we have Bill 121.

During the discussion of Bill 4 I tried to make sure that my constituents were fully informed. I sent out a flyer to let them know what was going on. It also had a questionnaire and the tenants in my riding were very concerned about the implications of Bill 4, but they knew it was a short-term and temporary measure and the New Democratic Party would be bringing forward its rent policy. We then see Bill 121. It was tabled in this Legislature in June 1991. The first edition of this bill had 130 clauses. We've seen a second printing of the bill. I have it in my hand. It contains 140 clauses.

I have a long history as a tenant activist. In the early 1970s, as I've said before, I was founding vice-president of my tenants' association. I believe very strongly that when market forces are not working, tenants need the kind of protection to ensure fair rent increases that are fully justified and also to ensure that there is good maintenance and value for money for tenants. I know tenants, as I've said many times in this House, want a clean and decent

place to live, and as someone who participated fully through the housing policy developments of the previous government and the development of Bill 51, which was quite unique in that it was the recommendations of nine landlords and nine tenants to the government of the day, I understand the difficulties the NDP found in trying to implement what it promised in that summer of 1990.

I am sad to say that the tenants and the people in my riding, the riding of Oriole, are feeling betrayed.

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** Again.

**Mrs Caplan:** Yes, they are feeling betrayed. They're feeling betrayed because what they were promised was a system that would be simple, fair, less complex and less expensive, and what they have is exactly the opposite. This Bill 121 and what it puts forward is very, very complicated, highly complex; 140 clauses to the legislation. It is more expensive than what is in place today. It is going to cost the taxpayers of this province more.

It is not fair, because it takes away from tenants the right of an appeal, and the minister just a moment ago acknowledged that. It takes away the right of appeal of a judgement. Now that judgement will be of a bureaucracy, of a bureaucrat, of a civil servant, rather than an independent quasi-judicial body. It takes that away from tenants, and that's a very serious loss and a very serious right, because the only basis of appeal to the courts, as the minister has just said, is on the basis of law, not on the judgement of the decision.

Tenants and constituents in the riding of Oriole are feeling betrayed because one of the very important features in Bill 51 was the standards board, the concept that would ensure that maintenance was carried out appropriately. That's gone.

So this Bill 121 removes the right of appeal, it removes the concept of the standards board to ensure appropriate maintenance. It has resulted, I believe, in a piece of legislation that is not only a betrayal of the promises that were made by Bob Rae and Lennox Farrell in the summer election of 1990, clearly established in the Agenda for People, but what we have today being proposed is something which I do not believe is in tenant interests in the short term, in the medium term, and certainly not in the long term.

The fact that this is going to be a very complicated, very complex, highly bureaucratic, very expensive and unfair system I think is the reason that during this clause-by-clause consideration, soon to be third reading debate, the government still has the opportunity to admit not only that it didn't know what it was doing when it was campaigning in that summer election of 1990, but that it didn't know what it was doing as an inexperienced group that formed the government. Perhaps in suggesting this new, complex, expensive and unfair piece of legislation, what the government should have done was bring forward amendments to Bill 151, which the tenants and landlords themselves said needed amendment. But what they expected in the way of a whole new, simple, non-bureaucratic, inexpensive, non-complex approach is not what they have.

1740

I would like, in the few minutes remaining, to compliment the Housing critic from the Liberal Party, Ms Poole, the member for Eglinton. Her work has been I think acknowledged in an appropriate way by the tenants of this province. The Federation of Metropolitan Toronto Tenants' Associations, in its bulletin, which I have in my hand—and I would note that a leading tenant activist is in the House today—has acknowledged that it was Ms Poole, the member for Eglinton, who pressed for automatic hearings when tenants applied for rent reduction because of inadequate maintenance. It was Ms Poole who pressed for an automatic hearing when the landlord applied for a capital expenditure allowance. I'm hoping that at the end of this clause-by-clause those will be incorporated, but I can tell you, Mr Chair, that many positive amendments that Ms Poole suggested and put forward were not accepted by this government, particularly the concept of a capital fund, which I believe was extremely important to the tenants of this province.

As I sum up, I want you to know, Mr Chair, that I sent out 15,000 questionnaires in the riding of Oriole. Over 75% of the tenants who responded said that this bill should not be supported unless all the amendments Ms Poole recommended were accepted. In fact, they have not been accepted, and I don't believe that Bill 121, as it now stands, while the principles sound good, will work. I don't believe it's in the interests of tenants. I don't believe it's in the interests of taxpayers. I hope that when we see this new world emerge the NDP government will remember that day in the summer of 1990 and know that it betrayed the tenants. In the next election, in 1995, it will be reminded of those events.

**The Chair:** Minister, do you wish to reply now or would you prefer to wait? The member of the third party has three minutes and 20 seconds. Minister, would you like to take the floor now?

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** I thought you had recognized the member from the Conservative Party.

**The Chair:** No, I gave you the choice.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** What happened to him? He just evaporated. Oh, there he is.

I'd be pleased to respond to a couple of the points raised by the member for Oriole. She notes that she represents a riding where 50% of the households are tenant households. I don't know if she knows that the riding of Ottawa Centre is a riding where 69% of the households are tenant households. I'm very pleased to be the representative of the riding of Ottawa Centre.

She described the legislation as missing the target that had been set in the Agenda for People. As I listened again to the words from that document, with some nostalgia for the innocent times that we knew as members of the NDP before September 1990, I realized just how very close the legislation we have brought to this Legislature—

**Mrs Caplan:** Point of order, Mr Chair.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** There's nothing out of order.

**The Chair:** Point of order.

**Mrs Caplan:** On a point of order, Mr Chair: I would remind the minister that in this House she has to tell the truth.

**The Chair:** Oh, oh. The member for Oriole, please, I want you to withdraw this completely.

**Mrs Caplan:** I am just—

**The Chair:** No, please, member for Oriole.

**Mrs Caplan:** When the minister attempts to suggest this is anywhere close to their promise—

**The Chair:** Please, I've asked you to withdraw that remark.

**Mrs Caplan:** I will withdraw, Mr Chair.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** As I listened to her read from that document again and considered the principles that are embodied in this legislation, I thought again how very close this legislation is to what we had talked about in the Agenda for People. The Liberals may laugh, but I believe that as tenants in this province find the benefits of this legislation in place later this year, they are going to feel the kind of security and stability in their rent that we had sought as we went into that election campaign in 1990.

The member for Oriole talks about this legislation being complicated. She notes it has 140 sections. It's not the number of sections in a piece of legislation that makes it complicated. I can certainly agree that there are sections in this bill that are difficult to read, but the principles on which it is based and which make up the operating framework of the legislation are principles that are pretty easy to explain in pretty normal, everyday language.

I don't know how hard the member for Oriole has tried, but certainly I think if she tries harder she's going to find she'll be able to explain to the tenants who live in the riding of Oriole just how elegantly and how directly the pieces of this legislation fit together so they will have protection. The legislation is based on a framework that assures one rent increase a year, as we had suggested in the Agenda for People. It provides a definite limit on the amount of increase each year—that is, the guideline—and in cases where there's an application—

**Ms Poole:** On a point of order, Mr Chair: It is very important for correct information to be given to the House. The existing legislation, Bill 51, provided there could be only one rent increase per year, so that is not anything dictated by the Agenda for People.

**The Chair:** This is not a point of order.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** I don't wish to get into a side debate, but in fact when the member for Oriole was rereading the Agenda for People, she read out the promise we made that there would be one increase per year, and there is now one increase per year. I was only noting that fact.

There is a definite limit on the amount that a rent can be increased each year. The most it can be is the guideline plus 3%. The extra 3% can only be added to a rent increase if a landlord is able to make a very good argument for the necessity of the kinds of renovations he is undertaking.

**Ms Poole:** Mr Chair, on a very important point of order: The minister's formula would give tenants a 9% rent

increase; inflation is at 2%. That's a difference of 7% from what she promised.

**The Chair:** This is not a point of order.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** Mr Chair, I do very much appreciate your protection of my right to speak in the House.

We have had it suggested by the member for Oriole that this legislation is going to be more expensive to administer than the existing legislation. I do not believe that to be the case and I hope I will be able to provide accounts within the next couple of years, once we've made the transition to the new legislation, that will indicate, given inflation, that we are not into more expensive administration. Certainly it is, as far as I am concerned, legislation that offers many more benefits to those whom it is intended to protect: tenants.

The member for Oriole also again stressed the importance of the fact that this legislation did not provide a semi-judicial process for appeal on a rent determination. I have to remind members that the reason we had to have a semi-judicial appeal process associated with the existing legislation, Bill 51, is that the determination was made by administrative review. The initial round of rent determination was made by administrative review. This legislation provides for an automatic hearing where there's an application by the landlord for an above-guideline increase. We therefore feel that the other sections of the legislation, which will provide for a review by a different person within the rent administration if there's a matter of error, will provide the kind of redress tenants in Ontario would like to see for situations where error arises.

1750

**Mrs Marland:** Just before I make my final comment on the legislation at this stage of the process I want to place on the record a portion of a letter from the Ontario Natural Gas Association dated May 15, 1992. The letter is addressed to the Honourable Evelyn Gigantes, Minister of Housing.

The first paragraph says:

"I am writing this letter on behalf of the member companies of the Ontario Natural Gas Association (ONGA) to express our serious concerns regarding Bill 121, An Act to revise the Law related to Residential Rent Regulation. In particular, we firmly believe that sections 23 and 24 of the bill represent a real disincentive for property owners and managers to initiate capital improvements which effect savings in energy costs. In our view, such a disincentive is not in the public interest.

"Energy, efficiency and conservation make economic, social and environmental sense."

A further paragraph in this letter reads:

"We regret that we were not aware of the existence of Bill 121 until recently, as we would have appreciated the opportunity to share our views with the standing committee of the Legislature which considered the legislation. However, we would be very interested in meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss our concerns in greater detail."

It's signed by Paul E. Pinnington, the president of the Ontario Natural Gas Association. I simply say I hope that this Minister of Housing—whose staff obviously don't do an automatic circulation of significant legislation that affects different organizations—will meet with Mr Pinnington and will try to benefit from the knowledge which I'm sure he will convey to her about the importance, economically and environmentally, of energy conservation.

But I think the final thing I want to say today is to quote something our socialist Premier, Bob Rae, has said. I think this more than anything else puts in place exactly why we have the kind of legislation before us that we have today in Bill 121. This is the quote, and I'm starting from the beginning of his quotation marks:

"You make it less profitable for people to own it (rental property). I would bring in a very rigid, tough system of rent review. Simple. Eliminate the exceptions and loopholes. There would be a huge squawk...and you say to them, 'If you're unhappy, we'll buy you out.'"

That is a quote from the then opposition leader, Bob Rae, as quoted in a pre-election newsletter of the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations. If you ever wondered what direction this Bob Rae socialist government was on, this quote confirms and eliminates any doubt you ever had about what its ideology is all about in terms of the provision of housing in this province and who pays for it and the fact that Bill 121 is not in the interests of property owners or tenants.

**Hon Mr Cooke:** It's my understanding that now that we've completed this stage, for all of the matters that have to be decided by a vote we will assume that five members have stood at each step. The recorded votes will take place on Monday after a 10-minute bell.

On motion by Mr Cooke, the committee of the whole House reported progress.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader):** Pursuant to standing order 53, I'd like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

The first thing on Monday we'll have the recorded votes, as I've just indicated, followed by third reading of Bill 121, An Act to revise the Law related to Residential Rent Regulation, with a vote at 5:45.

On Tuesday, June 2, Wednesday, June 3, and the afternoon of Thursday, June 4, we will do third reading of Bill 118, An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act. We'll continue committee of the whole and do third reading of Bill 136, An Act to amend certain Acts related to Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy, and do second reading of Bill 168, An Act to amend the Pay Equity Act.

In the morning of Thursday, June 4, we will deal with private members' business: ballot item 11 standing in the name of Mr Henderson and ballot item 12 standing in the name of Mr Wilson, Simcoe West.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Being close to 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until Monday afternoon at 1:30 of the clock.

The House adjourned at 1757.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
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Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
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Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
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Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
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St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	<b>Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
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Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	<b>Cooke, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	<b>Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

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Kimble Sutherland  
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No. 28

Nº 28

ISSN 1180-2987

## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 1 June 1992

# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Lundi 1 juin 1992



Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 1 June 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### CHILDREN'S SERVICES

**Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau):** I rise this afternoon to bring to the attention of the House a very serious situation in my community of Ottawa-Carleton. It's difficult to understand why a community-based program with an excellent reputation and therapeutic education program for vulnerable children with severe emotional problems is at risk once again. Students of M. F. McHugh School suffer from serious psychiatric and behavioural problems.

In August 1991 the Minister of Health said in a letter, "The funding in support of this program is not considered discretionary and is not subject to cutbacks." I urge the Minister of Health to verify this statement she made less than a year ago. She must alleviate the doubts and fears of the parents of the 50 students who are in treatment and whose recovery depends on a guaranteeing of funding for this excellent and essential program. This decision must be made immediately.

### NATIONAL ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** Today marks the start of National Access Awareness Week, a time when we reflect on the right of disabled persons to full access to education, employment, housing, recreation and transportation. National Access Awareness Week was conceived by wheelchair athlete Rick Hansen as a way to raise society's awareness of barriers to accessibility in order to break down those barriers.

We still have a long way to go before the majority of disabled persons can enjoy the same quality of life as persons without disabilities. The statistics are daunting. For instance, 33% of disabled persons in Ontario have a grade 8 education or less, only 43% are employed and their incomes are 46% lower than those of non-disabled Ontarians.

The government of Ontario, which funds or provides many of the services required by disabled persons, must play a key role in ensuring accessibility. Over the past year there have been some advances in this regard. For example, the Attorney General now operates a toll-free information service for disabled persons who need access to barrier-free courts.

However, there have also been frustrating setbacks. It took a protest rally by disabled persons to convince the Ontario and Metro Toronto governments to cancel funding cuts to Wheel-Trans, Metro's transit system for persons with ambulatory disabilities.

For National Access Awareness Week to work, we need action as well as talk. I hope by this time next year we will have some major achievements to celebrate.

### CANADIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

**Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre):** It's my pleasure today to introduce to you representatives from the Scarborough office of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Present in the House today are staff members Florence Wong, Ermina Ko, Debra Ann Smith, Rhonda Underhill-Gray, Dianne Dakers and Bernard Walters; from the volunteer committee we have Robert Jones, Ebrahim Washington, Colin Kressler, James McKinnon, Grace Staal and Muriel Clarke, and volunteers Adrienne Meszaros and Glen Clarke.

The CNIB is a voluntary agency that is dedicated to improving the quality of life and to fostering the independence of blind and visually impaired individuals. This is accomplished through a wide variety of programs.

Rehabilitation teaching helps individuals adjust to their visual impairment and maintain their independence. Counselling and referral services assist individuals in adjusting to the loss of vision. Through career development and employment programs, individuals are encouraged to determine career goals, develop new skills and find the right job. A range of services are provided based on the individual's level of education and experiences. Also, support is provided to employers so that the visually impaired can be accommodated in the workforce.

Through these and other services, blind and visually impaired individuals are encouraged to reach their full potential and participate fully in society. Many of these services are made possible through the hard work of volunteers who work directly with clients, on special committees or fund-raising projects.

Due to the tremendous commitment of many dedicated volunteers and staff, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Ontario Division, was able to serve 3,871 new clients from diversified cultural backgrounds.

Underlying all CNIB activities is the firm belief that the blind and visually impaired, with their individual abilities to function, can be integrated into the mainstream of community life. I applaud the efforts of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in assisting visually impaired individuals to experience life with confidence and dignity.

Mr Speaker, I ask you to turn your attention to the east gallery and meet the members of the CNIB.

### ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT

**Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale):** It's really amazing that the province of Ontario up until now has had only one methadone treatment program and that is the Addiction Research Foundation drug therapy program. Mr Speaker, this will really shock you. It's estimated there are 13,000 heroin users in Toronto, many of whom want to get off this habit, but there is no space for all of them who want to get off. There is no space for those who try to get into the methadone treatment program.

The Addiction Research Foundation treats only about 107 persons, and in addition, only a handful of physicians treat about 60 patients. Waiting lists are long, all centres are full and therefore many people give up.

The question we should be asking ourselves is this: How do they maintain their \$500-a-day heroin habit? Crime, prostitution, theft, break and enter. Many lead tragic lives of suffering and pain.

I am therefore pleased that the Minister of Health will fund a new program of methadone treatment for heroin addicts. While this can certainly be termed a step in the right direction, we must realize that it is far from adequate. We would expect that the \$4.1 million announced for additional treatment programs will soon be used in order to make a significant impact for those who want to break this terrible habit of heroin addiction.

1340

#### CONTROL OF SMOKING

**Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey):** On Friday, I had the honour, along with my friends Gary Lavine, a councillor in the city of Owen Sound, and Murray Elston, the member for Bruce, of attending a ceremony at Hillcrest Public School to receive our area's portion of the world's longest petition for a smoke-free planet.

As members will know, Friday was designated No Tobacco Day by the World Health Organization, the same day that the Council for a Tobacco-Free Ontario concluded its province-wide campaign to produce a record-winning petition by tallying local totals.

In my riding, the Grey-Bruce Council on Smoking and Health sponsored the local event in Owen Sound after encouraging all students in grade 6 and up in the region to participate by signing their names. The goal was to encourage health policymakers to reduce access of tobacco to minors and to illustrate our young people's concern about the effects of tobacco on health and on the environment.

I am pleased to report that students in Grey and Bruce gave enthusiastic support to this initiative. They are keen and eager to have their concerns heard, and I commend them on their awareness of tobacco-related health hazards and their dedication and their commitment to a cleaner planet. To illustrate this, I have with me the petition with more than 3,000 signatures from Grey and Bruce, which I am delighted to forward to the Minister of Health.

#### INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

**Mr Will Ferguson (Kitchener):** The budget outlined some of the short-term initiatives to provide jobs to the people of Ontario. These initiatives are part of the government's long-term job strategy. These measures will help to increase the long-term productivity and security of Ontario's economy by creating meaningful partnerships among industry, labour, government and academia.

Recently, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology announced that he will release the government's industrial policy, which will fully outline the government's approach to building a high-value-added economy. Some of the new initiatives outlined in the budget include a sector partnership fund, a one-stop shopping service for in-

vestment and an evaluation program and advisory board for the Ontario investment and worker ownership funds.

These are programs that are aimed at benefiting particularly the small business community, including an initiative named Clearing the Path for Business Success, which will reduce the government paperwork faced by startup businesses.

Clearly the minister is laying the groundwork today for the future, a successful future that will serve the business community and the workers within those communities well into the next century.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North):** Members will know that this week more than 30,000 people from over 160 countries will converge on the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to begin the 1992 Earth Summit.

This conference has raised the expectations of people concerned about the health of our planet that the numerous heads of state can show the leadership necessary to address and provide solutions to the numerous problems which plague our global environment.

This week provides an opportunity for us here to reflect on the environmental performance of the NDP government in Ontario. Unfortunately, the record of this government is appalling. Many Ontarians wonder where the NDP, the party that was to be different, that was truly committed to environmental protection, has gone on some of these following important issues, for example: the environmental bill of rights; the safe drinking water act; the clean air program; municipal-industrial strategy for abatement regulations, as promised—there are more—legislation concerning refillable containers; the issue of exporting garbage to the United States, and increasing vehicle inspection stations in the province.

Ontarians are all concerned about the environment and have every reason to be sceptical, based on the commitments and promises this government has made. Their scepticism is reinforced when they note that the budget of the Ministry of the Environment has been cut by nearly \$61 million this year alone.

Protection of the natural environment was the cornerstone promise of the NDP in past election campaigns, yet after 18 months the Minister of the Environment has not brought forward one single piece of legislation under her leadership as Minister of the Environment. This inaction and mismanagement is unacceptable to the people of Ontario.

#### NORTHERN STATUS FOR PARRY SOUND DISTRICT

**Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound):** On May 20 of this year, the township of Humphrey was advised by the Ministry of Natural Resources that the Humphrey-Rosseau area would now be considered as part of the Muskoka Lakes region for the Ministry's working purposes. As a result, the Humphrey-Rosseau area will be administered from the ministry's Bracebridge office. The District of Parry Sound Municipal Association held its spring meeting on May 4, 1992. At this time, a resolution was unanimously adopted opposing this transfer of jurisdiction.

I want to express my strong support for the resolution of the association and Humphrey and Rosseau's efforts to ensure that they continue to be serviced by the Parry Sound office of this ministry. Both Humphrey and Rosseau, for the ministry's information, are located in the district of Parry Sound, not in the regional municipality of Muskoka.

In fact, the Ministry of Natural Resources is the only ministry in the entire province which does not recognize the district of Parry Sound as part of northern Ontario. In 1989 this district was granted northern status for the purpose of all government ministries and programs. Presumably that includes the Ministry of Natural Resources, which still refuses to recognize this northern status. The Parry Sound district is constantly being treated by this particular ministry as part of southern Ontario. We only need to look at the handling in the last few months of aggregate controls and hunting and fishing regulations as well as timber management policies to know that the ministry does not appreciate the difference or accept our northern status.

I wholeheartedly agree with the elected representatives at the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association meeting that the Ministry of Natural Resources is doing a disservice to Humphrey and Rosseau through the transfer of this jurisdiction. I call upon the minister to reverse this decision of his ministry.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

**Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre):** Today is June 1, and on June 1 every year outside of our Assembly injured workers from across this province gather to remind us of their plight. These workers have invested their lives and bodies in our economy, and often their recompense, after months of hospital stay with broken backs, takes far too long and goes through a humiliating process for them.

I know particularly the hard work and dedication of the Durham Region Union of Injured Workers. I know from many of them whom I see regularly the kind of situations they are faced with. They are pleased with many of the improvements in service that have come about in the last while through our government. They would like to see a local office for the Workers' Compensation Board in Durham region, of course, but they are pleased with many of the reforms we have been able to do in the services.

There are still, however, many strong concerns about whether those improvements in service will be enough to meet the needs of injured workers in our province and whether their needs for retraining for permanent new jobs will be met with simple changes in how service is offered. I hope we will not fail those injured workers.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

##### CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM RÉFORME CONSTITUTIONNELLE

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I had a chance to meet earlier with the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the Conservative Party with respect to the continuing participation by

the province in the multilateral constitutional process, and I want to make a statement to the House with regard to the process.

Let me repeat again, by way of introduction to the report, that the participation by members of the Liberal and Conservative caucuses continued last week. I want to express my gratitude to those who participated: the member for Willowdale, the member for Carleton, the member for Ottawa-Rideau and the member for York North. Let me say with regard to all their participation, in terms of both the public events and private conversations, that I have deeply appreciated their participation and can only hope it will continue. Members should know that all these members have been very constructive and extremely helpful in terms of pointing out some dangers in the negotiations and some risks in terms of what is being done.

Let me also express my gratitude to my parliamentary assistant, who's been very much involved, particularly in the social charter, across the province, who was there at all the meetings this past week and who has been most helpful to me in presenting the issues to the public.

As well, I express my appreciation again to the Minister of Natural Resources, who also has a responsibility for native affairs.

1350

Perhaps I will save my finest praise for when the process is finally completed, but I would say to the House only that Ontario has been extraordinarily well served and I think Canada has been extraordinarily well served by the minister, whose credibility with aboriginal groups, whose toughness in negotiations and whose goodwill have earned him the respect of everyone in the room. I want him to know how much I personally appreciate his support and his advice on these difficult issues.

The member for St Catharines has always been asking where I've been. If the Liberal Party wants to include him as a member of the delegation, I'd be only too pleased to take his advice.

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** I love the House too much.

**Hon Mr Rae:** A week ago I presented in this House a statement on the state and the accomplishments to date of the multilateral process for reforming the Constitution. Leaders of the opposition also spoke on the subject, and we agreed that this is a non-partisan issue on which we are all committed to working together on behalf of Ontarians and on behalf of national unity.

I said then that we had an important meeting coming up in Toronto where all delegations would be discussing and negotiating the rough package, which should then go to first ministers and aboriginal leaders in the near future. I also said that this was not the final week of the reform process and that more was going to take place in the coming weeks.

The talks in Toronto were very productive. In particular, they led to historic progress on aboriginal issues. I want to congratulate the Chiefs of Ontario in particular for their role in these talks, as well as the leadership of the

Metis community and the native community generally, who have been very heavily involved in these negotiations.

Last week I was not able to tell the House how the process would continue, because it had not yet been decided. I can now report that participants agreed on Saturday, May 30, to get back together for two days in Ottawa next week, on June 9 and 10. We will meet there in the same format: premiers, ministers responsible for constitutional issues and the four aboriginal leaders. We agreed to meet for two more days because we realized that we were still making good progress but that we could make even more if we got a break and some time to think and reflect and to consult others; for example, legislatures and cabinets.

Most of the work has been completed, but what is left to do is very important. Having given the process our best effort up to now, we owe it to Canadians to give it the extra time that might make the difference. In the meantime, officials in the working groups will work on the legal wording and some other details which just could not be finished by Saturday. Officials will also be working on a draft report that will summarize all the provisional agreements reached and the items which remain to be decided. I certainly hope that on June 10 or shortly thereafter we will be able to make this report available to all, so everyone will have a chance to react to it before first ministers and aboriginal leaders meet to finalize it.

À mon avis, il y a essentiellement trois questions qui demeurent en suspens. La première question concerne le Sénat, sur lequel il n'y a toujours pas d'entente quant aux pouvoirs dont il serait doté, ni quant à l'équilibre de sa représentation.

Deuxièmement, il y a l'économie, sur laquelle il restent des étapes importantes à franchir pour renforcer l'union économique, le développement régional et la confiance entre le gouvernement fédéral et les provinces.

Enfin, troisièmement, il y a la formule de modification de la constitution, parce qu'on a le sentiment que la formule actuelle est trop complexe.

Perhaps I can read those three points in English as well. There are in my view essentially three areas that still remain outstanding: first, the Senate, where there is still no agreement on powers and the balance of representation; second, the economy, where there are important steps that still need to be taken to strengthen the economic union, regional development and lack of trust between the federal government and the provinces, and third, the amending formula for the Constitution, based on a feeling that the current formula is too complex.

As I noted last Monday, the goal of the multilateral process has been to develop a rough package—and I want to emphasize rough package—of reform amendments for final consideration by first ministers and aboriginal leaders. Since we are working to develop as much as we can of a full package, not just discrete items one after the other, all the provisional agreements reached so far are subject to review as part of the final package. It is certainly possible that some of the details will be reconsidered in light of the ultimate package.

With this in mind, here are the main items on which conditional consensus has been reached so far. It is very

important to stress the provisional nature of all the agreements and also that not all participants are agreed to everything. In fact, I'll be indicating a couple of areas where Ontario continues to take the view that the agreements are not the wisest ones. It doesn't mean we're going to block anything, it simply means that I want to indicate to the House where we have indicated that we take a different view. As I did last week, I want to give the House some sense of the main parameters.

1. Values: There will be an interpretative Canada clause for the entire Constitution. It will refer to our democratic institutions, the aboriginal inherent right to self-government, Quebec's distinct society, linguistic duality, ethnic diversity, ethnic and racial equality, the equality of the provinces within their diverse characteristics and the equality of women and men. There is now provisional agreement on the text of this clause. That took some time, but we think we're almost there. Quebec will be recognized as a distinct society in the charter and in a Canada clause, as will the principle of linguistic duality.

2. Amending formula: There is provisional agreement to discuss two approaches to changing the amending formula with respect to national institutions. These are unanimity and so-called seven and 85.

There is provisional agreement to the principle that existing territories should be able to become provinces solely by an act of Parliament, and on the legal method for doing this.

There is also agreement that upon the admission of one or two new provinces the general amending formula will be changed from two thirds and 50, known as seven and 50, to three quarters and 50. This will ensure that amendment could not be made without the support of at least one western and one eastern province.

Provinces which opt out from transfers of jurisdiction to the federal government will receive fair compensation.

There is agreement with the principle that aboriginal consent be required to future constitutional amendments which directly affect aboriginal people. The constitutional amendment that would express this principle is now substantially drafted and agreed to by the principals.

3. Senate: We have agreed on some things with respect to the Senate, even if only on a provisional basis, and I wanted to share them with the House. There is agreement that the Senate should be elected but that it will not be a confidence chamber. Senators will continue to be eligible to serve as members of the cabinet as a matter of custom.

Senators will be elected on an electoral cycle that is independent of elections to the House of Commons or provincial assemblies. I should point out to the House that Ontario disagreed with this consensus.

**Mr Bradley:** I would abolish it.

**Hon Mr Rae:** Mr Speaker, the member for St Catharines has interrupted to say that he would abolish it. I'm sure that view will be taken into account and I'm sure that'll be a view we'll all regard with interest with respect to his own particular future. Some of us would argue that he's already behaving like a senator.

With respect to revenue and expenditure bills, narrowly defined so as not to include major changes to tax policy, the Senate will have only a 30-day suspensive veto. This means it will have the ability to delay such a bill but not to defeat it.

Legislation that materially affects the French language and culture will require approval by a majority of the Senate and by a majority of francophone senators, once referred to as a double majority.

The Senate will have a role in ratifying the appointment of the governor of the Bank of Canada as well as other key federal appointments, but not appointments to the Supreme Court.

There is provisional agreement that jurisdiction over Senate elections will be federal, that all senators will be elected at the same time and that senators will be elected by a proportional representation method, which would encourage better representation of traditionally under-represented groups.

Aboriginal representation to the Senate will be guaranteed in the Constitution.

The question of the powers of the Senate and how many senators each province will elect has yet to be resolved.

1400

As I think the House will know from following this, I've continued to express concern about ensuring that Senate representation is seen as being fair and balanced in all parts of the country and that whatever we do will not produce parliamentary deadlock. I will continue to discuss this issue with all interested parties. Any advice members have with regard to this issue would be deeply appreciated by the Premier, I can tell you that right now.

Interjection.

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** Kill it. Put it out of its misery.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I'm already hearing different pieces of advice. The Conservatives are saying, "Don't cave," and the Liberals are saying, "Deep-six it." I appreciate those pieces of advice.

**Mr Sorbara:** One Liberal.

**Hon Mr Rae:** One Liberal, but what a Liberal.

**Supreme Court:** The Supreme Court should be entrenched in the Constitution.

There is provisional agreement on a provincial and territorial role in appointing Supreme Court judges.

There is support for entrenching in the Constitution the provision of the Supreme Court Act, which specifies that the Supreme Court should be composed of nine members, of whom three must be selected from the civil law bar of Quebec. This item, however, requires unanimity, which it has not yet obtained, for obvious reasons.

There is agreement that aboriginal people should have a role to play with respect to the Supreme Court.

**First ministers conferences:** A provision will be entrenched in the Constitution to require the Prime Minister to convene a first ministers conference at least once a year. A political accord will specify that territorial governments will be invited to participate in conferences called under

this provision and that aboriginal leaders will participate in discussions of any item on the agenda that directly affects aboriginal people.

**Aboriginal issues:** I want just to say in preface to this section, if I may, that we have made progress on aboriginal issues that far exceeds my expectations of only three months ago. I am personally delighted and very proud of the progress we have made as a country with respect to aboriginal issues. I was enormously pleased that Chief Mercredi took the opportunity on Saturday to express his satisfaction with the progress we are making. We're not there yet, but we really are making great strides.

There is provisional agreement to entrench in the Constitution the inherent right of aboriginal people to self-government. The inherent right is recognized within Canada as one of Canada's three orders of government. Aboriginal leaders and governments are committed to negotiations to define the roles and responsibilities of aboriginal governments. This process will be open to all aboriginal people. The Charter of Rights will apply to aboriginal governments.

There will be a three-year delay before the inherent right to self-government will be taken to the courts. This period is renewable on the consent of both parties. This will give governments and aboriginal organizations time to make progress in negotiations leading to the implementation of self-government.

Agreement was reached on a process to clarify and implement treaties. The Supreme Court will be guided by a constitutional rule of interpretation that treaties are to be interpreted in a "just, broad and liberal manner" and that their context and spirit and intent will be taken into account.

There will be a constitutional guarantee that the Metis people and Indians living off-reserve will have access to self-government and treaty negotiations. In an effort to further protect this guarantee, the federal government agreed to consider an amendment to the Constitution to include all aboriginal peoples under federal jurisdiction, which would involve a change to section 91.24 of the Constitution.

**Social charter and economic union:** There will be a social charter in the Constitution, to be described in section 36 in a subsection on the "social and economic union." In many of its details, this statement will parallel Ontario's original proposal to protect Canada's health care system and social programs. There will be a constitutional statement of the principle of free movement of persons, goods, services and capital.

**Equalization:** There is agreement to extend the constitutional provision on equalization to the territories and to expand the provision to cover "economic infrastructure."

A new subsection will entrench the commitment of governments to the promotion of regional economic development to reduce economic disparities.

The federal government will be required to consult with the provinces on matters related to equalization payments and to provide two years' notice before any changes are made to federal equalization legislation.

Division of powers: There is provisional agreement to recognize and clarify the existing provincial jurisdiction in tourism, forestry, mining, recreation, housing and municipal/urban affairs. Financial arrangements will be determined through a political accord.

Il y a entente provisoire pour reconnaître la formation professionnelle comme champ de compétence exclusif des provinces et que la responsabilité de l'établissement des programmes sera transférée aux provinces, en même temps qu'une compensation financière.

Il y a entente provisoire pour reconnaître la culture comme champ de compétence des provinces, tout en reconnaissant et en maintenant la responsabilité du gouvernement fédéral en ce qui concerne les institutions culturelles d'envergure nationale, y compris les institutions qui transfèrent des fonds à des organismes ayant des particuliers dans tout le Canada.

Opting out with compensation from new national cost-shared programs in areas of exclusive provincial jurisdiction will be possible if a province establishes a program to achieve national objectives.

There will be an enforceable obligation on the federal government to conclude an immigration agreement with any province requesting one. Any province negotiating an agreement must be accorded equality of treatment in relation to any other province's agreement.

There will be a constitutional mechanism to ensure that certain agreements between governments will be protected from unilateral change.

A new mechanism will be introduced in the Constitution to allow Parliament and provincial legislatures to delegate to each other jurisdiction over certain matters for a period of up to five years. This provision will be carefully delimited, and provinces will be accorded equal treatment. Ontario, I have to tell you, expressed strong concerns about this provision. If anyone wants to ask me why, I'll be glad to answer.

There is agreement to the principle that changes to the division of powers in this round should not adversely affect aboriginal and treaty rights.

Mr Speaker, let me say by way of conclusion, and I appreciate very much this opportunity again to update the House, I've said that whatever the outcome of the week of negotiations in Toronto may be, it's fair to say the multilateral process has been a success. I noted that the constitutional reform process, of which it was the latest phase, was moving forward and there was every reason to be optimistic. This is even more true today, as we plan for the meeting in Ottawa next week.

Our challenge remains to construct a package that is inclusive of provinces, of regions, of collectivities and of individuals. I will try my best to be part of an ultimate resolution that ensures that all can see themselves reflected, that no one feels left out, keeping in mind of course what's best for Ontario, but even more important, and indeed most important, what is best for Canada. I've said on a number of occasions that Ontario's only bottom line is Canada and that our negotiating position is based on a very strong view that whatever we do has to be primar-

ily, and most important of all, in the best interests of the whole country.

This is a week for discussion and consultation. I've begun the process by discussing a bit about the issues with the leaders of the opposition. I continue to look forward to their advice and I would hope for the continuing commitment and support of the whole House.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Since the Premier has gone over the time limit, we'll add two minutes to each of the opposition parties, so each of you will have a total of seven minutes for a response. First, the official opposition.

1410

## RESPONSES

### CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM RÉFORME CONSTITUTIONNELLE

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** We appreciate the update the Premier has brought to the House this day, as he had promised he would last week. Obviously we have all been following the events of last week with a great deal of interest, at times concern, but also feel to some degree heartened by the progress that's been made. I've asked the member for York North, who has been very much part of those discussions, if he would share with the House our perspective on both the progress and the process itself.

**Mr Charles Beer (York North):** I want to thank the Premier for the statement he has provided to the Legislature today. I think it is very important that not only we as legislators but indeed the people of the province have a sense of where the areas of agreement are emerging and what some of the issues are where there is still a great deal of discussion, because this has been, over the last year or year and a half, a process that has had many parts, and I think that has been extremely important.

Whether in terms of our own select committee, which sat and provided two reports, the Spicer commission, the Beaudoin-Dobbie committee or the federal task forces that took place throughout the country, there has been a tremendous amount of discussion among and between Canadians, and while this last and most recent round has, out of need, I believe, had to be somewhat more private, none the less the reporting which I think has gone on, both in the press and by Mr Clark at the end of each meeting and again today and last Monday, is important. We must know what is being discussed and where the areas of agreement are.

Perhaps speaking somewhat from a distance as an observer who, with my colleagues in the Conservative caucus, has been able to sit in and participate, I would also like to note that this week is very important for all those who have been involved in these discussions and in these negotiations.

I would like to say to my fellow Ontarians and to Canadians that I believe very firmly that the people around the table, both elected and officials, are striving very hard to reach agreement. One of the things I want to note is that where there is difference of opinion—and there often is

difference of opinion—it is based on strongly held positions that do need to be advanced. It is out of that kind of discussion, I believe very firmly, that we will ultimately see a solution to this particular problem and that we Canadians will be able to accept a new Constitution.

Sometimes, when we talk about constitutions, I think one of the things that is important is to step back from some of the jargon words. I know I've learned a new one, "justiciability," which I can just about pronounce, but if anyone is confused I suggest he or she speak to the former Attorney General, who will be able to define exactly what that means. But there is all kinds of terminology, which frankly puts people off.

I believe it's very important that as Canadians we say, as the Premier said at the end of his remarks, that our most important focus and objective here is to ensure that our country, Canada, emerges from this round of discussion stronger than it is today, that in fact we find a way to include Quebec within Confederation, that we are able to go down the road to meet the concerns that have come forward through western alienation, that all these different issues, including the aboriginal issue which, I believe very strongly, as the Premier has said, this week in particular showed a real sense of direction—I think everyone in the room at the time of the discussion of treaties was struck by the give and take and by the very determined discussion. When what I think is a real consensus emerged there was an immediate reaction to that with applause throughout the room, because there was a sense that as Canadians we had done something that was important, that needed to be done and that emerged.

J'aimerais dire aussi que je pense que c'est très important pour la communauté francophone de notre province de bien comprendre ce que tous les gouvernements ont dit sur l'article de la dualité linguistique. On comprend fort bien les inquiétudes de la communauté francophone vis-à-vis la dualité linguistique.

Je pense, s'il y a une chose qui est sûre, que les gouvernements de ce pays ont dit clairement qu'il est très important pas simplement de protéger les droits linguistiques, mais d'assurer que la communauté francophone de notre province va avoir l'occasion de s'épanouir, donc, pour la communauté francophone comme pour les autres minorités dans notre pays, qu'on va voir du progrès à cause de ces discussions.

It's also very important to underline, again as the Premier did, the importance for Ontario of a strong Canada and a strong Confederation, and the importance for Ontario to work towards a strong economic union. It seems to me that if there is one thing we as Ontarians feel very determined about, it is that at the end of this process we will have a federal government that will be able to act in the common interest. Surely our common interest is to develop an economic market within this country in which we can all participate and where there will be a free flow of goods, services and people. I think there has been heartening progress. While there still needs to be much more discussion, that is something I believe is important to us.

If we keep this kind of focus—and I believe we will, and certainly we are going to be working on our side of the House with the government to ensure that this round of discussion is successful—then I think the final question we all have to sort out is how we then go and speak to our own people and how we ensure that the people of this province and this country will be able to have a say in support of the eventual agreement that is reached.

But if we keep in mind that what we are doing here is not for governments but for the people of this country, if all of us can keep that focus, then I believe that over the next couple of weeks, hopefully within a month, we'll be able to have a package we can put forward to the people of this country and then move on from the Constitution and get on with all those other things that are so very important to our lives.

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** I want to thank the Premier again for the update today in his office and for his efforts on behalf of the province of Ontario. Indeed, as I said last week, my sense is that Ontarians want a deal. They want this Constitution issue behind them, not at any cost or price, obviously, but with some degree of confidence that the goodwill of the people of this country is going to ultimately move on.

I want to congratulate again the member for Willowdale, the member for Parry Sound and the member for Carleton for their significant advice and attendance at these meetings and liaising with others across the country and former politicians, officials and Canadians who are playing a role in these discussions.

I briefly do want to remention a couple of points. I indicated to the Premier one of the discussions I had this week with Mr Horsman from Alberta. I don't believe I'm betraying any confidence in saying that he continued to impress upon me that it was the people of Alberta who were going to ratify, who were going to decide on what their leaders and Canadians had advanced on their behalf. In advancing Alberta's position with me, I reiterated to him that I had every expectation that ultimately either the Prime Minister or the Premier of this province would insist that Ontarians be given the same right as Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Quebec and British Columbia. I call on the Premier today to make that commitment to Ontarians for two reasons.

One is so that we are very clear that while we are negotiating that it's not the 130 of us, it's not the three parties, it's not the party leaders, it's not the Premier, but it is indeed the people of Ontario whose positions we're taking forward. We invested millions of dollars in ascertaining those positions in consultations. Let's give them some teeth. I have great confidence in the people of this province, as I do in Canadians, to put the national interest up front. But I think it would be very beneficial if, Premier, you would make that commitment today, that if there is not going to be a national referendum—I'm not saying a referendum for a referendum's sake—then indeed Ontario voters will have the same rights as the rest of Canadians. I think that will be important as we're negotiating as well.

Second, on Senate reform I want to reiterate that there's been a lot of discussion. We've all agreed now with

"equal"—I'm sorry; we've all agreed with "elected." Pardon me for that Freudian slip. We're hoping that we agree on the definition of "equal" with "elected." It seems to be to be a complicated formula for election. None the less, there's been some consensus on that. Ultimately the discussion has been taking place on "effective." There has been some indication that there's a tradeoff between effective and whether it will be equitable or elected. My growing sense, from the discussions I've had from talking with Canadians and indeed with Ontarians, is that if the Senate is not effective, there's no tradeoff. If it's not effective, scrap it.

If we're going to have an elected Senate and we're going to have an effective Senate, let's settle that. Then there is no question. There is no question that we're going to have an equitable formula because I tell you right now—and, Premier, I think you've advanced the case; I agree with you and I continue to advance it myself—that a province with a population of 140,000, in an effective way in managing the affairs of this country, is not going to have the same voice and effectiveness as 10 million Ontarians. Those are the facts of life. As soon as we understand that, we can get on with resolving this.

If it's to be effective, and I think it should be, then let's say so. Let's get on with that. If we cannot agree with that, then let's scrap it until such time as we can. I advance that position as well, Premier.

1420

There are a couple of questions that have arisen from the discussions, and I ask the Premier to think about it as we're making other deals along the way.

The issue of native self-government: Most I've talked to can understand what that means in a land-based situation. What that means for those natives who have a land base, they understand future negotiations; it may involve more land base. But no one I've talked to at this point in time, Premier, is having great difficulty coming to grips with what native self-government means for those with no land base, for Metis, for my next-door neighbour, for those who are not living on a designated land base, whatever size and whatever area. What does that mean? There is great concern that there will be, perhaps, three years from now, or three years post-deal, a substantial difference of opinion and expectation among natives as to what it is that self-government means to them. I would hope that while the other discussions are going on we clarify that—we have ongoing working groups on that—and we bear that in mind when making deals on the other issues, saying: "Well, we really don't know what it means. We'll let the courts decide."

The difficulty as well I have with not knowing is that if, as I believe, there's going to be a national referendum, then that uncertainty allows those who have maybe very far-reaching and silly interpretations without some definition to advance them with more legitimacy than I think we would like.

I offer those suggestions in the same spirit I and my caucus and my members are prepared to continue to work with the Premier. We want a deal. We want Canada. We want the people to have the opportunity, obviously, ulti-

mately, with great confidence that they too want this Canada that has been so good to us.

I conclude with this. I attended this weekend a 50th wedding anniversary and remarriage of the Ledoux family and the Foisy family in the small town of Astorville, of about 500 people, Corbeil, in the member for Parry Sound's riding. I tell you, with the children and the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren and the coming together of those two families, how they have now spread out across this great country and they all came together, if ever there was a sense of Canada, I saw it this weekend, and Canadians want to keep this country together, Mr Premier.

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** I seek unanimous agreement for statements from the three parties on the Earth Summit.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Do we have agreement? Agreed.

#### EARTH SUMMIT

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** Can we imagine a world where going outside is dangerous to our health? No, this is not the setting of a futuristic vision; it's a very real possibility. Daily we are reminded of the dangers of ozone depletion. We see our lakes and rivers becoming sewers, our air slowly becoming contaminated, and wonder, where will it end?

This week world leaders and environmentalists will meet to determine the fate of the environment. The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro will play on our fears about the environment, world politics and the economic realities of saving the one thing all nations have in common: the Earth.

Since 1972 and the first Earth Summit, the intent to save the Earth has never been so strong or so necessary. In the last 20 years the Earth has lost over 200 million hectares of trees. The world's farmers have lost over 500 million tonnes of topsoil. In the last 20 years over 100 million species have vanished from the world's rain forest. Lakes, rivers and seas have become so polluted even industry cannot use the water. Population growth is out of control and is expected to double by the year 2050.

These facts are the ingredients for our extinction. Can anything be done in light of the significant odds against us? It can be done, but in the words of Maurice Strong, it's a herculean task.

It is our hope the summit will conclude at least three things. First, the importance of world cooperation is tantamount to future environmental agendas. The developed countries must subscribe to the reality that their abundance of financial and technological resources must be shared with developing countries. In part, this is important because developing countries like Brazil are keepers of some of the world's valuable resources, yet their economic development hinges on these resources. Is it fair for us to impede their development and force millions of people to remain living in poverty?

There are several countries in the world about to break into the industrialized age. This would put further stress on our environment and especially on global warming. In other countries, industries are employing outdated technology that

threatens the environment. Because of financial restrictions these industries cannot be refitted with proper environmental safeguards. Global cooperation between the developed and developing nations will hopefully lead to safe and environmentally friendly development.

Second, all countries must address the economic reality of saving the Earth. Parts of the Soviet Union are cesspools of toxins and carcinogens caused by years of pollution by industries without concern about the environment. Who will pay for the cleanup? Countries that have little or no economic base cannot afford the huge financial cost. Yet the cost is more than money; it is lives. Not just theirs, but ours, the people of the Earth. Pollution has no boundaries. The cost must be part of a global initiative where developed nations must recognize the interdependence of these less fortunate countries. President Bush has told the world that the American lifestyle is not up for negotiation. Regardless of what is negotiated at the summit, if a green agenda based on global cooperation and economic assistance is not established, all our lifestyles will be affected.

Finally and most important, I would like to see the Earth Summit end on a note of optimism and action. It is the fear of many people that the summit will prove that the state of the world's environment is worse than anyone ever imagined. If the Earth Summit concludes with all nations reaching an agreement on an agenda with a plan, a realistic time frame and a commitment to act, the summit will be a success. We cannot expect miracles; we can expect a global proactive commitment.

On behalf of our caucus we wish all nations participating in the summit patience and understanding. We send them our thoughts and concerns. We wish the delegates and the environment good luck. We are counting on their actions. The race to save the Earth has begun.

**Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North):** I want to join my colleague the member for Markham, and I understand the Minister of the Environment will be making some comments about the Earth Summit that is commencing in two days' time in Rio as well.

Certainly there are a number of issues we could touch on, and the member for Markham has listed a number of pertinent issues that are of concern to men and women around the world, but what I would like to do for a few moments is focus on what we can do here in Ontario, because each and every citizen, indeed each and every person, whether he or she be old or young, has a contribution to make. Those of us in this Legislative Assembly also have a responsibility to deal with environmental issues.

As over 30,000 people will gather—including heads of states, diplomats, bureaucrats, representatives from non-government organizations, aboriginal groups, environmental activists, many of the environmental organizations that are active here in Ontario and Ontarians—in Rio this week and next, there are a number of issues that are on the table and up for discussion that will dramatically affect us and, more important or as important, those who come after us. The world and the legacy we leave for the young men and women of this world can be impacted by what takes place in Rio de Janeiro in the coming days.

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I come back again to what we can do here in the province of Ontario. Many environmentalists and journalists have been critical of the process and are sceptical, and perhaps it's far from a perfect process. But those of us involved even in the process that takes place here on a much smaller scale understand that nothing is ever perfect, when those of us who are after all fallible put our hands and our minds to it. It's not perfect but it's something that can be done. I think we take pride as Canadians that Mr Morin-Strom is heading up the Earth Summit, a former Canadian now residing in southern Colorado who has really dedicated himself to this initiative literally for years to see the fruition of his dream.

I noted today, as I was travelling and picked up a copy of a US publication, that environmental issues are back as the number one issue in terms of concern for people in the United States and Japan. I was curious to note that in many European countries, France and Belgium, it's a close second. I'm not sure where it ranks right now in terms of polling in Ontario but I know the reality is that it's slipped off the current agenda in terms of what people are seeing as important issues. We have to remember that the economy will come and go; there will be cycles to it; there will be things that will happen, but the world we live in and what we do today will have impact for generations to come.

The minister will doubtless be making some announcements and speaking about what the government of the province of Ontario will want to do. I want to draw back and pay some tribute to my friend the member for St Catharines, the former minister, for some of the initiatives taken here in the province that received a tremendous amount of support from people on all sides of the House; simply to say that's it a beginning and we have to move on and we have to do that here as well.

I think of the MISA program that was undertaken, and wait to see what we'll do here in Ontario to continue that; the Countdown Acid Rain program; the resolution sponsored by my friend the member for Algoma-Manitoulin; those kinds of private members' initiatives that have been brought here. I think of my colleague the member for Simcoe Centre, who brought forward an initiative a few weeks ago. Those are the kinds of things we can each do that impact us globally.

The focus this week will be on what's taking place in Rio on a worldwide basis, but there's much that can be done here. Quite frankly, we are waiting for some of the initiatives promised by this government in the 1990 campaign, and we look forward to seeing those. I again draw to the attention of the minister—I'm sure she will comment about it—that there's much we can do and we need to be getting on with the job at hand.

People say, "What can we do?" I conclude my comments with this as we reflect on the Earth Summit of 1992. People say, "What difference does it make what I do as one individual?" I conclude with this brief illustration, if you'll allow me, Mr Speaker.

If we were to run outside in the midst of a snowstorm and grab a small snowflake in our hands, it would disappear very quickly, but enough of them put together shut

down airports, stop traffic and stop cities. I think that's how we have to begin to think in terms of what we do environmentally. Each and every thing we can do, as small as it may seem to be, collectively can make a major impact and begin to turn around the way we think, the way we act, the way we live, the way we use the resources that have been entrusted to us; not given to us to use, but entrusted to us to leave for those who come after us.

As our colleagues and our representatives, the Prime Minister and the federal Minister of the Environment, Mr Charest, attend, we can only hope that world leaders, men and women concerned with the world we live in, understand that environmental concerns know no jurisdictions, know no partisan element and that we all have a role to do. We wish them well and wish them success. We see a brighter future for the world we leave our children.

**Hon Ruth Grier (Minister of the Environment):** Mr Speaker, I'm glad to join the member for Markham, the member for Brampton North and indeed with all members of this House in marking the opening of the conference at Rio that begins this week. I share with them their concern about the state of our planet and their hopes for ours and for future generations that in fact Rio will begin to mark a turning point. I'm optimistic that it will. I think the conference will succeed in bringing the world's attention to some of the most important challenges facing all of us.

The world is at a crossroads in how it deals with the global environment and with economic issues, and UNCED signals that it is beginning to turn in the right direction. But I think the real test of the Earth Summit will be the concrete results that follow: the actions adopted by each country to follow through on the important decisions and the treaties agreed to at Rio.

Ontario has worked with the federal government in developing Canada's position for the conference, its support for climate change and biodiversity treaties. As a member of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, I was very much a part of those discussions. The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment will be represented at Rio by the Honourable Gilbert Clements, the Minister of the Environment for Prince Edward Island.

Ontario responded very positively to the report of the Brundtland commission and its call for the development of a sustainable economy. It's been a non-partisan issue, as my colleagues have said, and I commend the efforts of the previous Ontario government in setting up the Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy. The round table has brought together cabinet ministers, industrialists and environmentalists to develop a strategy for sustainable development. Ontario is taking action on several fronts to promote sustainability. There are many specific actions I could point to, and I acknowledge that there are many more to be done, but I think what's important is that we in this province have acknowledged the importance of sustainable development and in many cases are leading other industrialized areas of the world in making a commitment to do just that.

Rio was not an end in itself. The preparation for the conference has, in my opinion, contributed to increased awareness and understanding of some of the issues that are

going to be discussed there and of the threat there is to life on this planet. To me it marks a beginning, not the end of a process but a beginning, where all nations are committing themselves to taking the necessary actions to preserve our planet. It is what follows Rio that will really begin to make a difference for future generations.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

JACK LAYTON

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is for the Premier. I would like to raise the issue of the appointment of Jack Layton, NDP member and former NDP alderman, as a consultant and facilitator for the review of the Public Hospitals Act of the Minister of Health's office.

It was just last year, in the November 19 fiscal review statement, that this government froze consultant hirings. In its recent budget the government reiterated its concern to cut government spending by some \$3 billion, in part through cutting or controlling the costs of hiring new consultants. I wonder if the Premier can tell us why he has created a brand-new consulting job specifically for Jack Layton. It may in fact be the only real new job this government has created, but why start with a make-work project for Jack Layton at some \$300 a day? I wonder what has happened to the decision not to hire new consultants.

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I'll refer that question to the Minister of Health.

**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health):** I appreciate the leader of the official opposition raising the issue, because I would like to clarify a number of points that I think have been misinterpreted by the press and by the opposition critics in their comments in the media.

Mr Layton has been hired on to the staff of my office. This is not a consulting position that has been hired by the ministry. The bureaucracy, the Ministry of Health, has had nothing to do with this hiring. During the course of work with my political staff in my office with respect to the organizing of public hearings around the task force recommendations on the Public Hospitals Act, we determined that we wanted to do some organizing to ensure that municipal councils, district health councils, labour councils, community groups, minority networks and others were provided with full background information and organized to be able to participate effectively.

The staffing in my office is such that in our staffing envelope we had additional moneys available to hire more staff. Rather than a permanent position, we have hired up to 30 days' work. We've hired someone who in terms of his background—having been a chair of a board of health, having been a municipal councillor and having been on a hospital board—will I think help and facilitate us.

I want to assure people that this is not a civil service position. This is not a consulting position to the ministry. This is a political staff position within my own office. The responsibility for the hiring of this individual lies directly with me.

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**Mrs McLeod:** The minister's answers provide a whole new set of questions. If it's a political staff position, we would wonder how typical it is for political staff positions to come on board at about \$300 a day. The minister has not denied that that is the salary figure being paid.

Our question is raising the issue of a consultation process and why this particular individual was appointed to carry out a consultation. Let me direct the minister to a concern we have, an increasing concern about the way in which this government stage-manages consultation on virtually every issue it carries out a consultation on. That's the real issue we want to get at with this appointment today. We believe this government has stage-managed the budget consultations, we know the government has stage-managed the Labour Relations Act hearings, we know the government is stage-managing the child care consultations and it seems obvious to us that the appointment of Jack Layton is another attempt to stage-manage this particular consultation on the Public Hospitals Act.

I ask the minister how the Ontario public can possibly expect to have a fair and independent review of the Public Hospitals Act when Jack Layton has been appointed to control the hearings.

**Hon Ms Lankin:** Again, I think I need to correct the leader of the official opposition. I welcome the opportunity to do so. She's used words such as "control the process" and "run the process." The hearings themselves will be held by the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Health, the member for Simcoe Centre, and a number of MPPs in those areas will be involved. What we wanted to assure ourselves of, the opposition and the government, is that we have full participation by a full range of people from the community in these hearings.

One of the things I find really amazing and objectionable is to hear the member opposite call this stage management. We know we will have tremendous assistance from the hospitals in this province during this consultation process. In fact, the Ontario Hospital Association is being of great assistance at this point in time in arranging forums for its own hospital members to discuss this and to organize their response so we will have an effective voice from the hospital sector.

In the press release when we announced the consultation, we wanted to ensure that we had participation from consumers and other community organizations. I believe it is a responsibility of government when it consults to enable people to participate in that consultation. Aboriginal groups, women's groups, minority groups—we are going to have two information sessions to provide them with the background and ability to effectively communicate.

One of the things we heard over the years when the opposition was in government was that consultation was a sham. To say to people to come out and consult without providing them with the information, the background and the ability to consult is not consultation.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the minister conclude her response, please.

**Hon Ms Lankin:** I believe what we're doing is empowering those groups and individuals, and the fact that I need assistance on my political staff to do that I think is entirely defensible.

**Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre):** The minister will know that the Public Hospitals Act governs 223 hospitals in the province. People who are affected by that act should have the right to feel that there is independence and no self-interest involved in the way public hearings are conducted in respect to a review of the act.

Let's talk about this consultation process. The consultation Mr Layton has been brought in to head up, at \$300 a day, includes six one-day hearings in various parts of the province and one two-day session in Metro Toronto, as well as a few information seminars "to help groups make submissions on the new act."

I am asking the Minister of Health again, why does she need Jack Layton to be hired at \$300 a day when she has perfectly qualified, independent people within the Ministry of Health with expertise in the field and no vested interest, political or otherwise? She has 12,000 people in her ministry from whom to choose. Why did she choose Jack Layton?

**Hon Ms Lankin:** Again, let me make it very clear. This individual has not been hired to come in and head up a consultation process. He has been hired on to my staff in my office to facilitate the work of my office in coordinating and trying to assist communities in participating in this process.

The member opposite talks about independence and vested interest. Let me tell you, I have a vested interest. My vested interest in this process is ensuring that communities can participate in this very important process of re-writing the Public Hospitals Act and that the issues of community accountability are heard from and participated in by all the various interests, not only by interests that are organized at this point in time. From what I've heard from hospital boards, the way in which they struggle to try and be represented, to bring people on board, I think they also would like to see this kind of facilitation done.

We have a situation where we have a task force report and highly technical recommendations. We believe that to facilitate the community's involvement in this, to come forward, to be able to respond in an effective way, we need to help and facilitate that. I think that's the responsibility of my office. In terms of the number of people I have available right now and the workload of the staff, I required additional assistance—

**The Speaker:** Could the minister conclude her response, please.

**Hon Ms Lankin:** I have the staffing dollars available in my office. Again, I'll say it is my decision as the minister to hire an additional staff person on my staff to do this and I think Mr Layton fills the bill very well.

**The Speaker:** New question.

**Mrs McLeod:** We'll take a little time over the balance of the day to determine whether there is a precedent for hiring a political staffer to carry out a supposedly independent public consultation.

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** In my second question, however, I would like to return to the Premier with a question we raised in the House last week. Last week I asked the Attorney General whether he was satisfied with the mediated settlement that kept an employee of the Ontario courts and the Belleville judge who was reportedly sexually harassing her in separate parts of the building and provided for no disciplinary measures to be taken. The Attorney General did not answer my question regarding this specific case except to confirm, as we already knew, that a special committee of judges, not the Ontario Judicial Council, had worked out this arrangement.

I ask the Premier if he is familiar with this particular case and, given his government's commitment to zero tolerance of sexual harassment, is he satisfied with its resolution?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** It is an important question and I'm afraid I can't answer it because I am not familiar enough with the facts to give an answer, but I will certainly take the question as notice.

**Mrs McLeod:** Perhaps I can share with the Premier some of the details of the case, then. It's our understanding that the allegations of sexual harassment were never denied and yet the judge in question was not disciplined because, as I understand it, only the Ontario Judicial Council can discipline judges.

The resolution of this situation has effectively placed the victim of sexual harassment under house arrest. This in fact followed a very long period in which she was subject to personal inconvenience and considerable anguish. We wonder what message this sends to other women who are being harassed, and find that it's no wonder, if this is the way they're responded to, so many of them hesitate to bring forward their concerns.

Why did this serious allegation not go to the Ontario Judicial Council, which is empowered to discipline judges? I ask the Premier if he will see to it that an internal inquiry is carried out as to the way this specific case was handled to determine whether any further steps needs to be taken.

**Hon Mr Rae:** As I say, I'm at a disadvantage because I'm not sufficiently familiar with all the facts to be able to answer with the fullness I would like. I would only say to the honourable member that, obviously, with respect to the conduct of judges who are politically independent of the government, the decisions taken with regard to any particular incident do not involve a decision by the government as such. If the member says the facts, such as she describes them, give rise to concern on her part, I'm sure the facts as she's described them are worthy of an independent review which I'm sure the Attorney General will want to conduct, along with others. We will then endeavour to make an effective response—

**Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David):** He's the one who dumped Mary Hogan.

**Hon Mr Rae:** If I could be permitted by the member for St George-St David to respond to what I've taken to be a very serious question, I'm sure a view he shares, I will

respond on behalf of the government, as will the Attorney General.

**Mrs McLeod:** I'm clearly at a disadvantage as well in pursuing this question with the Premier, other than to express a certain degree of surprise that, having raised the question in the House last week which had already been addressed with a significant article in the *Law Times* which was subsequently picked up by some other media outlet, the Premier was not made aware of what we consider to be a very serious question which has not yet been satisfactorily resolved.

When the Attorney General responded to the question last week, he responded as the Premier has in terms of the independence of the judiciary and a broad review of the Ontario Judicial Council. We do not feel that response really addresses the specifics of this case and wonder—surely the Attorney General and the Premier are not suggesting that the independence of the judiciary includes the inability to question sexual harassment, which has absolutely nothing to do with their legal decisions.

Our understanding is that the Attorney General could have referred this specific case to the Ontario Judicial Council. The ministry apparently recommended to the individual that it would take too long to go through that route and she should settle for a mediation.

For the Premier's awareness, although I suspect he is aware of this, when a physician is accused of sexual harassment, the complaint's heard by a panel of both physicians and laypeople with an appeal to a higher board composed only of laypersons.

Our question, then, is why should members of the judiciary have their cases dealt with quietly by a special committee composed entirely of judges rather than by the judicial council which has been established for this purpose? I would ask the Premier if he will ensure that steps will be taken to be sure that the authority of the judicial council is not bypassed in any future case.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I think the member asks perfectly fair, reasonable and proper questions which are worthy of an answer. They're worthy of an answer not only from the government but from all those who would be affected by such an incident. The questions she raised with respect to the comparison of the conduct of anyone in public office with those who are professionals, such as doctors, I don't take as rhetorical; I take them as extremely serious. I think they're worthy of a full review by the Attorney General and I will discuss it with him after question period. I take the member's questions very seriously in this regard.

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## JACK LAYTON

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** I'd like to ask the Premier a question. On September 15 in the *Toronto Star*, Premier, you said: "We want to appoint people of ability and talent without any regard to their previous political affiliation. The public has to have the sense that the system is on the up and up." Premier, in giving a government job—not an agency, not a board, not a commission, not a political appointment, but indeed a function normally performed by a civil servant—to Mr Layton, do you believe

that's giving the public the sense, to which you committed yourself on September 15, that the system is on the up and up?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** Since the decision was made by the Minister of Health, I'm going to let her answer the question.

**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health):** Once again, I would like to assure the members that this is not a civil service job or a job that I see as normally a function of the civil service. This is work that on other occasions I would have people on my political staff carry out. This is a political staff position. I made a decision to hire someone else on a contract to assist us on our political staff. It doesn't surprise me at all, therefore, that the person would be a political individual.

I think it's important that we understand, with respect to hiring people for their abilities and not giving consideration to their backgrounds, that that works both ways. Mr Layton has entirely credible credentials on this issue to be able to assist us. With respect to the job that needs to be done in my office, I think it's an entirely appropriate decision, one which I've made and one which I take full responsibility for.

**Mr Harris:** The minister insists it is important that this job be a political appointment. I view your statements to us today, both to the leader of the Liberal Party and to myself, as a slap in the face to 90,000 competent civil servants in this province, as a slap in the face to the \$500 million in salaries your ministry now spends on civil servants in the Ministry of Health. In fact, there are 48 pages in this new and expanded phone book since the Liberals and the NDP socialists took over this province and substantially enlarged the bureaucracy.

I would ask you this, Madam Minister: Why is it you have said in this House twice now in response to questions that it's important that a position to seek the input—unpartisan, unvarnished, I hope—of the public be a political position on the minister's personal political staff, as opposed to an unbiased, unpolitical position by the very competent, talented and non-partisan civil service staff you have in your ministry? Can you explain that to me?

**Hon Ms Lankin:** It's the first time I've heard the leader of the third party defend the civil service. I'm glad to hear he's finally caught on that there it is a very large, dedicated and very professional group of people, a group of people I have defended very often in the past in this House.

The consultation process and the development of proposals for the government's consideration of the reform to the Public Hospitals Act is being headed up by a group of civil servants. In fact, the head of our legal counsel, Gilbert Sharpe, is the person who's responsible for the overall overseeing of this process.

In the course of any interaction with the public and with the civil service, there is a role for members of the minister's staff to be working on these issues. Quite frankly, the fact that I have a staffing envelope as a minister—as do others, as have other governments—the ability to hire people on to our political staff to assist us with

development of issues, is entirely consistent with past practice. I am acting on that. I have hired this individual.

As I said, I don't see that this is at all skewing or manipulative. I would say quite frankly, to remind people that we are the government, that we are attempting to raise issues, that we are attempting to facilitate consultation in a way that hasn't been done before, I think it's entirely appropriate and I will continue to defend—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Could the minister conclude her response, please. Final supplementary.

**Mr Harris:** I would say to the minister that never, ever has anyone heard me run down the most competent Ontario civil service, which was handed over to incompetent management in 1985—never. I question the management and the direction, yes, but not the civil service.

Madam Minister, in the last six months you have created and hired six new people for six new departments in your own political staff. For equity issues you hired Shelley Acheson, a brand-new position, a new appointment; consumer health, Patricia Bishop, a badly needed new position, a new appointment as a special assistant; new special assistant Larry Corea, mental health; Lin Grist, long-term care policy; Andrea Knight, community and public hospitals, and Dan Leckie, institutions. Six new positions, six new political appointments as special assistants to your office.

I would ask you this: Is none of them, particularly Dan Leckie, hired as a special assistant for institutions, capable of providing the kind of input necessary to gerrymander or do whatever it is the NDP wants to do with these hearings that you had to go out and spend another 300 bucks a day to hire Mr Layton?

**Hon Ms Lankin:** I find it very interesting to describe the positions of special assistants as new positions. Every single government and every single ministry and every single minister has had political staff special assistants. What we have done is assign certain areas of policy and delineated that so people out there know, if they want to call about an issue, which of my political staff to contact because the areas they work on are delineated. It is really a misrepresentation to suggest that those are new positions that have never been in place before.

The people who are in those positions I think are very competent. Right now we are in a situation, with the level of work that is involved in terms of policy development in the ministry, with all the issues we have to handle, that we are required to have additional assistants.

I think this has very little to do with the number of political staff and what they do in my office. I think this has everything to do with the opposition trying to make a partisan issue out of Mr Layton doing legitimate work on political staff in my office.

**Mr Harris:** Why doesn't the minister just say: "Look, Premier, if you want to look after him, hire him along with Piper and McClellan in your office. Don't contaminate the civil service with all these people you want me to hire."

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** My second question is to the Minister of Labour. Minister, we hear that you will be introducing your ill-conceived labour proposals some time this week. Despite the fact that I have asked you repeatedly, on many occasions, and you have thus far refused to table any impact data on employment, on workers, on the number of jobs and the quality of those jobs in this province in conjunction with your labour proposals, I would ask you one more time: When you introduce your new proposals, whatever they contain, will you table an impact study on the workers of this province at the same time as you introduce your legislation?

**Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour):** The member can wait until we table our bill in the House and he can see what's there at that time.

Interjection.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order, member for St George-St David.

**Mr Harris:** We on this side of the House and across this province—indeed, many card-carrying union members are stopping me in the street or calling me or writing, asking what the motivation is for this legislation. Given that workers are hearing that there are going to be even fewer job opportunities for them, given that workers are being told that their rights to a secret ballot and to many of the things they hold sacred and dear—whether there should be a union, certification, strike vote—and that these rights are being taken away from them, they are constantly asking me, “What is the motivation?”

I would ask you this, Mr Minister: Would you not agree with me that tabling an impact study would, once and for all, help to settle the issue of motivation? Is it for workers? Is it for the card-carrying union members? Is it in the interests of this province or is it a payback to Bob White and the union bosses who keep you people in office?

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**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** I think we just heard the sick kind of remark about workers that we've been getting from the leader of the third party all along. The intent of the legislation is clear, and that is to improve the labour relation climate between workers and business in the province.

**Mr Harris:** The Fram workers, affiliated with the CAW in Stratford, recently voted the CAW out. They voted the union out in their workplace in Stratford. Mr Mittick, the CAW's director of organizing, said this in response to the democratic right of the workers who, with a bigger majority than they voted to accept the union a few years earlier, voted to end that affiliation with CAW: “That is exactly why the government's proposed labour law reforms are needed, that a ban on anti-union petitions, ie a ban on anybody who wants to speak out against forming the union, during organizing drives would go a long way towards developing healthier labour relations inside plants.” What he means is that if you can shut up anybody opposed, any worker who does wish to speak against joining a union, you have a better chance of unionizing.

I would ask you this, Mr Minister: This is what Mittick says is the reason we have to have these reforms: so that

the majority rights of workers can be abrogated. What say you to Mr Mittick's reason for the labour legislation changes?

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** I would say that we intend to protect the majority rights of workers, not diminish them. The member will see that when the legislation is filed in the House.

## INVESTMENT FUND

**Mr Monte Kwinter (Wilson Heights):** My question is to the Premier. As members will be aware, the standing committee on finance and economic affairs is currently studying Bill 150, the Labour Sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Act. Because the purpose of the act is to save workers' jobs with workers' money, the committee quite naturally is hearing from lots of workers and lots of unions.

Last Thursday both the Canadian Auto Workers and the Ontario Federation of Labour made persuasive presentations to the committee. To be short, those two organizations are not supportive of this particular labour-sponsored venture capital fund. To quote James O'Neil, the secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Auto Workers, “This particular tax represents a regressive and unproductive tax reform.” He also says, “The tendency to erode future pensions in favour of venture funds is, for working people, a dangerous mistake.”

Mr Premier, when you consider that this particular initiative, this labour-sponsored fund, is a cornerstone of your industrial restructuring initiative, given the negative reviews of this particular act—I can say to you with all honesty that there hasn't been anybody who has appeared before this committee who has been truly supportive of it; there have been people who have appeared before it and said they have some suggestions, but no one has really said, “This is something we need”—could you tell me why this particular bill is still there and why you haven't had it withdrawn?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** In general, I'd say because we don't simply follow the marching orders of any particular group in society. That would be the answer I would give. You can't have it both ways.

I listened carefully to the member's question and I want to be sure that we understand each other, because Lord knows there are enough occasions on which we talk past each other.

There are two separate issues. Maybe I misunderstood the member's question, but there is the issue of Bill 150, which has to do with worker buyouts; that's one particular issue. I think the other question refers to the issue of the so-called investment fund, which is a separate question and a separate issue. I would say to the honourable member that the question of giving workers an opportunity to buy into companies is something which I think has wide public support. I think it has wide support among people. It certainly has wide support in those communities which have been very seriously affected by industrial change. I would say to the honourable member that he should go into Sault Ste Marie and Kapuskasing and talk with the

people living in those communities and those towns and those factories before he dismisses too quickly the notion of workers having an opportunity to take an equity interest in the companies in which they are working.

**Mr Kwinter:** The Premier misses the point. I have been quite prepared to support this legislation. I'm not criticizing it. The problem I have is that the people who are supposed to be supporting it are not supporting it. If the words of Bob White and the CAW are not enough, perhaps the Premier can turn his mind to the 800,000 affiliated members of the Ontario Federation of Labour. The OFL holds some serious concerns, and I hope the Premier will bear them in mind.

Chris Schenk, the federation's research director, appeared before us last Thursday and said, "There has been no research...to indicate that a lack of venture capital is a major problem in the economy of Ontario," and he said the government might want to rethink the Ontario investment fund as well. This is to answer your point about the workers, and here's what the OFL has to say. Mr Schenk says that the federation remains "unconvinced that there is any advantage for our members to use their hard-earned moneys for purposes of bailing out small companies." This isn't my comment; this is the comment of the Ontario Federation of Labour.

Mr Premier, if the two largest labour organizations in Ontario, who are supposed to be supportive—and I can tell you that Sam Gindin said to me that not only is he not supportive; he will recommend to his members that they take no part in this—my question is this: If the people who are supposed to be sponsoring it and the people who are supposed to be supporting it are getting recommendations from the two largest labour groups in Ontario, there is no hope that this thing is going to fly. I ask him again: Would he please reconsider withdrawing this bill and going back to the drawing board?

**Hon Mr Rae:** In a word, no, but I will tell the member why. First of all, I honestly believe that in the comments he's quoting with respect to venture capital and with respect to the investment fund issue, that's a separate issue from the worker buyout question.

Let me repeat my comment to the member. We're not dealing here with a theoretical issue. We're dealing here with an enormously practical issue which faces many workers in many communities. I say with due respect to research directors and others that we have shown very clearly a number of situations where it benefits the workers in the community for people to take an equity interest, to take lower wages as a result and to bargain very creatively with respect to work design and with respect to redesigning the workplace. That's what's happened at Algoma; that's what's happening in Spruce Falls, where, for the first quarter this year, the company has shown a profit. I will say to the member that I am very proud of what we're doing in this area and the government is convinced we're on the right track with respect to giving workers a chance to save the jobs they have.

1510

## REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. There's no question, Madam Minister, that the Gaming Services Act that you presented to this Legislature last week could be used as a means of establishing charity-run casinos within Ontario. You shake your head, but I think if you listen to your advisers, there's no question that it can.

I would like you to state for the record, Madam Minister, which option you intend to use for the operation of casinos in the province of Ontario: the Howard Hampton, Manitoba-style government-run casino, or is the Gaming Services Act in effect the back door to the introduction of casinos? Who is going to run the gambling casinos in the province of Ontario?

**Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations):** First of all, the introduction of the Gaming Services Act is not related to the issue of casino gambling in any form whatsoever. In fact, the member for York Centre would know that because when he was in this ministry he was working on the Gaming Services Act. I think I've come along and improved it to a large extent since the member for York Centre was working on it. I've been anxious to introduce this bill for some time because the charitable institutions in our province have grown significantly over the past few years. There are about 50,000 charitable organizations that use bingos and that sort of thing to raise funds.

In the meantime, our large commercial sector that runs those bingos and provides the equipment and all of those things has grown. They are not regulated. It's important that we move as quickly as we can to make sure that commercial sector is regulated. We have to make sure that the proceeds to those charities and churches which depend on the money they're raising to support their causes are not skimmed off the top. That is what's been happening out there. I'm very happy and proud that I've been able to introduce this at this time so that we can go ahead and protect those charities.

**Mr Tilson:** The question was, who is going to run gambling casinos in the province of Ontario? I didn't ask for a summary of the bill. I heard that last week. Within the Gaming Services Act the required qualifications of a gaming assistant or supplier in clause 11(a) are that a registrar may refuse an applicant on the grounds that it "will not act with integrity, honesty or in the public interest." Minister, who will be making these decisions? Who has integrity and honesty? Who has the qualifications within your cabinet to decide "integrity, honesty or in the public interest"? Is it the Premier? Is it the Minister of Northern Development and Mines? Is it you? Who's going to decide those matters as to integrity, honesty or matters in the public interest?

**Hon Ms Churley:** Obviously the member didn't hear, as he said, the information I gave on the Gaming Services Act. Otherwise he wouldn't have said what he said as a prelude to his first question. It was very important to set the record straight on that. I hope that in fact he did hear

what I had to say today, because it's important to charities out there.

The issues are not connected in any way. Let's be very clear on that. In regard to casino gambling, as you already know, it was announced that we would proceed with casino gambling. However, we've made it very clear that we're going to take a very cautious and careful approach to this initiative. That is what we're doing. That's the message we're putting out there. We want to make sure we consult in particular with the special interest groups which have concerns about this. We are in the process of carefully setting up a project team and a process so that people who want to be heard from can be and so that we can sit down and discuss—certainly I'll be discussing it with you, I'm sure, since you're my critic over there—to make sure we go about this carefully and with a great deal of caution.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Mr Mark Morrow (Wentworth East):** My question is for the Minister of Labour. The minister will be well aware from his meeting with injured workers' groups that injured workers in this province are very concerned about what is happening to them during these tough economic times. What is this government doing to help injured workers, especially in high-risk industries such as construction?

**Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour):** I'm well aware of the very legitimate concerns of injured workers. I'm pleased to be able to tell the member that injured workers in the construction industry now have re-employment rights with their employers similar to those in other industries—

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Have you completed your response?

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** Well, I thought I'd wait till we got the shouting across the way out of the way first, Mr Speaker.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** The minister will wait for them.

Interjections.

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** Our government has recently approved a regulation which requires construction employers to re-employ injured workers to the pre-injury or similar job, to offer suitable employment when the worker is capable of doing so and to modify work in the workplace according to Ontario's Human Rights Code. These rights are similar to those which most Ontario workers have had since the Workers' Compensation Act was last amended in 1990. This was just done. This regulation was drafted by the Workers' Compensation Board in cooperation with a joint labour-management committee from the construction industry. The two sides were able to reach consensus on most issues, showing that once again the partnership between workers and employers in this province can work to the benefit of all.

**Mr Morrow:** Mr Minister, I recognize that we have to strike some sort of balance between what is socially just

and what we can afford. What effect will this regulation have on the cost of workers' compensation?

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** I'm pleased to tell the member that in this instance, this is an instance where social justice and economic renewal work hand in hand. The regulation imposes no new costs on the workers' compensation system. In fact, the re-employment of injured workers will save money to the board. Returning to the job is not only the psychological and financial benefit of the injured worker, but it also means net saving in benefit costs.

#### WATER QUALITY

**Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North):** In the absence of the Minister of the Environment, I'll direct my question to the Premier. Premier, I want to quote to you from a news release in your 1990 election campaign. It reads as follows: "New Democrats say Ontario needs a zero toxin water-quality law and a safe drinking water act that sets standards and gives people the power to enforce those standards. Nothing less than our health and our children's health is at stake."

Mr Premier, we on this side of the House have been waiting with some anticipation for the introduction of a safe drinking water act, which you also promised; your government promised it in your first throne speech. To date we haven't seen anything, any movement at all from the Ministry of the Environment. We want to know, Premier, is your government still committed to a safe drinking water act?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** The minister is just coming into the House, so I'll let her answer the question. Did you hear?

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment):** Yes, I did.

I'm sorry not to have been here. I take it that the intent of the question is, when will we introduce the safe drinking water act? If that was in fact the question that the member for Brampton North has posed, I'm sorry to be able to tell him that I can't give him a specific date at this time, but I am able to assure him that the issue of the protection of the waters of the province of Ontario is certainly a concern that I had in opposition, still maintain and have been taking some definite action within the ministry to try to arrive at some kind of a satisfactory program that can assure the people of this province that the drinking water is protected.

1520

**Mr McClelland:** The minister waxes eloquently about her plans and the commitments of her government, but it's simply not reflected in the actions. I refer even back to last Thursday. There was a question put by myself and the member for Markham and the responses said: "We're going to look at what we can do. We're thinking about a kind of strategy. Our ministry is working on a strategy. It's something that we've considered," and so it goes.

All we hear about is what they're thinking about doing. Here's something that was promised, that was talked about in your 1990 news release. You stated that it was something

you were committed to moving on quickly. I recall more than once on opposition days you would stand in your place and say, "Let me have the job for a year and I'll take care of it." You've had the job for more than a year and you have done absolutely nothing as Minister of the Environment.

I want to give you another example. The Jobs Ontario capital fund created in 1992 is supposed to fund environmental projects to ensure clean beaches and safe drinking water, yet according to the minister's estimates, the government is cutting transfer payments to something around half of what it was. At the same time as—and my question is this—the government talks about the initiatives which it may accomplish, and financially strips important environmental programs right to the bone.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the member place his supplementary, please.

**Mr McClelland:** You talked about Mr Bradley bringing in the round table. You know that you're downsizing the round table even as you pay tribute to him. Minister, when are you going to reconcile the promises of your government that you've made, specifically with respect to the safe, clean water act that you've talked about, the promises with some commitment and with some action? When are we going to see that happen?

**Hon Mrs Grier:** I reject categorically the allegations of the member for Brampton North. I want the member for Brampton North to know that this government, my ministry and all ministries have taken stronger and more specific action to deal with environmental issues than any government in this province before us, including the one of which he was a member.

Let me tell him that we are the only jurisdiction to have put in place a ban on the incineration of municipal solid waste, a recognition of the fact that you don't deal with waste by merely transferring it to one of the other elements and is symptomatic of the multimedia approach to pollution prevention that this government has enunciated. We are the only government to have put in place a comprehensive and progressive 3Rs program that is making a concrete difference, not only to the way municipalities and communities reduce waste but to the ways in which business looks at waste.

As we integrate environmental policies into economic policies, we see opportunities in the restructuring of the economy of this province to really get to sustainable development. We are the only government to have put in place a policy of sustainable forestry.

**The Speaker:** Would the minister conclude her response, please.

**Hon Mrs Grier:** We are the only government to have put in place the kind of energy-efficient program that his government never even contemplated. So don't let the member speak to me about lack of environmental initiatives.

#### HOSPITAL SERVICES

**Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West):** My question is to the Minister of Health. It concerns—

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** To the member for St George-St David, while the last thing I would do would be to encourage interjections, the member should know that he should at least be sitting in his proper seat. If the House has come to order, then the member for Simcoe West can pose his question.

**Mr Jim Wilson:** My question is to the Minister of Health. It concerns the litany of promises surrounding the funding of expanded trauma services at Sudbury General Hospital. Minister, you'll be aware that over the past five years there have been no less than seven announcements concerning this project.

It began back in October 1987 when the government of the day announced \$9 million to expand the trauma services at the hospital. In 1989 the Liberal government told the community that Sudbury's trauma project was being reviewed. In 1990 the Health ministry once again endorsed the Sudbury project. Eight months later, your government decided to conduct an internal review of the project and in September 1991 you confirmed, Minister, that the original provincial share in the trauma project had risen to \$11 million. You also announced earlier this year that the Sudbury General Hospital project would be given a high priority with your ministry.

Minister, the chronology of promises concerning the question of funding of this project is mind-boggling. I'd ask you, given that just a few weeks ago in this House you said that by June 1, that is today, you would make the announcement and the decision on whether the government would fund these badly needed services, I would ask you what that decision is given that your timetable has now run out.

**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health):** Can I start off by saying that I agree with the member around the litany of announcements that have been made with respect to a lot of capital projects in this province and how frustrating it is for those local communities. At the same time, as I tried to explain both to the local communities and to members of the House when we made the announcement of the capital projects review, at a time in which we were limiting the transfer of dollars for increased operating costs to hospitals, we felt it was very important that projects that have received prior approval for capital redevelopment and new capital development should be consistent with this planning framework and guidelines and should be consistent with zero increase in operating costs or limited increase in operating costs.

It was truly, I think, very unfortunate from the point of view of communities which have been waiting to get on with things, but we've been trying to do it in a very expeditious way and I think communities that we've been dealing with have felt that we have been responsible and expeditious.

I just want to correct the member on one thing. I did say on several occasions with respect to the next group of capital reviews, of which Sudbury General is one, that I would make every effort to try and have the decision by June 1. I am in the process, myself, within my office of reviewing recommendations right at this very moment. I

indicated that it would be as soon as possible and that I might not make the June 1 deadline. I haven't made the June 1 deadline, but I expect to get responses to that community very soon. I've been in touch with people from the community. I've heard from the members representing. I understand the importance and will hope to have them a response within the next very short while.

**Mr Jim Wilson:** Minister, I appreciate your response, but while you're fudging around on a date to make this announcement, I hope you realize that you've left the people in northern Ontario and in northeastern Ontario in a very precarious and dangerous situation, because they do have a shortage of emergency trauma services in Sudbury. Dr Gary Bota has been quoted as saying: "We have no room to handle any kind of disaster. We can handle one patient very well, but once we get up to two patients or more we begin to get overwhelmed."

Minister, the problem in northwestern Ontario is grave. I ask you, you seem to have found the money and you are able to take the decision to hire a political hack like Jack Layton in your office, but you can't tell us today, even though you've promised in the past and the previous government promised funding for this project, whether or not your government will support this project. So I give you one more chance. Given your commitment, what is your decision? The people of Sudbury deserve an answer.

**Hon Ms Lankin:** Again, I say to the member that I agree the people of Sudbury deserve an answer and I agree that the answer that they get should be consistent with the kind of announcements that this government has made around a new planning framework and a move towards the different delivery of services within the province. Let me say that there is no question of this government's support for enhancement of services of the regional trauma centre in northeastern Ontario. I'll correct the member, it's northeastern and not northwestern Ontario. I want to make sure that he realizes, and that other members realize, there's no question of our support for that. With the nature of the scope of the project and in light of the other discussions the boards themselves in the hospital area have been undertaking about rationalizing services and others, it's important for us to ensure there's a consistency in approach.

I intend to get an answer to people as soon as possible. One thing that I've tried to do in this House is not give non-answers in order to be able to fudge deadlines and leave myself all sorts of room. I said that I was going to shoot for the end of May and I said I may not make that date. I haven't made that date. I hope the answer will be out very soon. I'm in the process and in a high priority way of reviewing the recommendations that have been brought to me. I think it's fair for me to indicate deadlines to people and to try and make those deadlines. I think that's a more genuine way of dealing with—

**The Speaker:** Would the minister conclude her response, please.

**Hon Ms Lankin:** I don't take the member's criticism on that point.

1530

## CLEANUP OF INDUSTRIAL SITE

**Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph):** My question is for the Minister of the Environment. Madam Minister, as you are aware we do have a serious problem in Guelph, in that with the former site of the International Malleable Iron Co, known as IMICO, the US owners of this company pulled up stakes and left a polluted piece of property. Then a Guelph resident bought the property for \$1. Obviously it was something the company didn't want to handle any more.

I know the federal government, the provincial government and our municipal government have been working together to try to solve the issue, but the area residents have great concerns about the property being cleaned up. I'm just wondering, Madam Minister, if you can provide right now to my residents and myself an update of the IMICO site.

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment):** This is certainly not the first time this member has raised this issue with me, and I'm glad to provide a response to him and one on the record for the other members of the House.

The site to which he refers is one that has given my ministry a great deal of difficulty in trying to deal with successive owners to make sure it is cleaned up. I'm glad to be able to tell him we've contributed \$90,000 to removing potentially hazardous raw materials as well as PCBs from the site.

The current owner has submitted an application for a certificate of approval for a waste disposal site and a waste management system. Our understanding is that the proponent wishes to establish a waste handling facility to compost organic material. The proponent has been advised that the applications he submitted did not contain sufficient detail to allow us to process them and that once we've received that detail from him, then certainly my ministry will look at those applications in detail.

**Mr Fletcher:** Madam Minister, our residents are very tired and very upset with the rhetoric that's been coming from previous governments. We know this isn't something new this government has done; this has been around for a number of years and previous governments have failed to operate on this.

Madam Minister, can the proponent who has bought this site go ahead with his waste management program without first cleaning up the site?

**Hon Mrs Grier:** The proponent will certainly have to assure our ministry that the site is adequate and can in fact be used for the purposes he has suggested. He was asked by my ministry to submit a decommissioning plan to the ministry for review by May 15, 1992. When the plan was submitted it was considered inadequate as it didn't give us sufficient information to enable the ministry to determine whether in fact the site could be decommissioned to an appropriate standard. We have again asked the proponent to supply us with that kind of detail, and again I can assure the member that when we receive the information that is adequate to enable us to do an evaluation, we will do that as quickly as we can.

## MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES POLICIES

**Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin):** I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. Given the fact that your ministry's budget has been reduced; given the fact that your ministry has both directly and indirectly cut seasonal employment opportunities; given the fact that Ontarians cannot expect an increase in the level of service at our provincial parks; given the fact that the minister is increasing the rates at provincial parks by as much as 425%; given the fact that senior citizens will now be paying park fees throughout the week; given the fact that these increases impact most heavily on seniors and low-income Ontarians, Minister, is this just another example of your government's policy of pay more, get less?

**Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources):** The member is correct that the policy has been changed this year so that seniors will be paying throughout the week. But he will also know—I think he probably just inadvertently didn't mention the fact—that we have cut the fees to a lower fee for disabled people, unlike previous governments, while at the same time changing the fees for seniors.

**Mr Brown:** I have another question about paying more and getting less. For many years Ontarians have enjoyed the use of our crown land for recreational pursuits. Many Ontarians have land use permits. Typically on the land is located a modest hunt camp or angling camp for the season. They're occupied, as members would know, usually for two or three weekends a year.

Given that your government has seen fit to cap residential rent increases in this province at 9%, only 7% above inflation, and given the fact that there's a falling of commercial rents within the province today, how can you justify increases as much as 1,300% on these land use permits? Is this just another example of pay more, get less?

**Hon Mr Wildman:** I am happy to assure the member that that decision, which comes from earlier decisions and assessments by previous governments, will be reviewed and is currently being reviewed. I hope to make an announcement in the near future which will change those numbers substantially.

## UNIVERSITY CROWN FOUNDATIONS

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** My question is to the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Mr Minister, I'm sure you have the same letters I do from Queen's University and the University of Western Ontario indicating that because British Columbia and Alberta have already provided for the establishment of crown foundations, our Ontario universities are at a distinct disadvantage. The benefactors have actually told them—and I've been part of it in one instance—that until Ontario has this legislation, these benefactors will not be making the anticipated and much-needed substantial donations to our Ontario universities.

We're struggling and looking for cooperation from the private sector. Some of us are going about trying to get this money—myself personally right now for your seatmate here—because we have work to do in this province and we don't have this crown corporation. I'm going to ask you

today: Will you be making this announcement? I know all three parties are in favour of it.

**Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Colleges and Universities):** I am sure the member knows that about a year ago I started an initiative towards that objective of creating university crown foundations. For those not familiar with such institutions, they are a device whereby a person who makes a very large contribution from income can get more than the standard 20% charitable deduction credits against their income, up to 100%, by voluntarily submitting to 100% tax on what you give. I have been looking at a number of the accountability mechanisms around that. The previous Treasurer was proposing, for example, a crown foundation for the whole province. The universities themselves do not want that; they want individual crown foundations to attract their own supporters and for their own project development.

The member will also recall that the member for Nepean introduced a resolution last November on that subject and it was supported by all three parties in the House. I have taken that under advisement and we're working very quickly on it now and I hope the member will be able to see something reasonably soon.

## PETITIONS

## REAL ESTATE GAINS

**Mr Charles Beer (York North):** I have a petition signed by some 15 persons opposing the introduction of a new tax on real estate gains:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government of Ontario has promised to introduce a new tax on real estate gains; and

"Whereas there is simply no evidence to suggest that real estate gains taxes either contribute to lower land and housing prices or raise significant revenue for the government; and

"Whereas in some cases, a new tax on real estate gains may even raise prices by reducing supply; and

"Whereas the tax as proposed in the NDP's Agenda for People will adversely affect the entire real estate market in our community; and

"Whereas real estate gains are already subject to heavy taxation from federal and provincial governments;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to urge the Honourable Floyd Laughren, Treasurer of Ontario, not to proceed with an additional tax on real estate gains."

I have signed that petition, Mr Speaker.

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** I have a petition of some 148 names from the communities of Mount Forest, Windsor, Port Hope, Milton and Etobicoke, and it reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario's labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

#### REAL ESTATE GAINS

**Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming):** I have a petition here today regarding the land speculation tax:

"As realtors in the province of Ontario, we are opposed to the implementation of a new land speculation tax at a time when the real estate and housing market is beginning to revive. It is both unnecessary and counterproductive."

I will affix my signature to this.

1540

#### RENT REGULATION

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** This is a petition to the Legislature of Ontario.

"The proposed Rent Control Act, Bill 121, will prevent apartment owners from carrying out necessary repairs to residential rental buildings.

"This bill, if enacted, will result in the private sector being unable to build new residential rental housing, with an ensuing loss of tens of thousands of jobs.

"This bill will ensure that the non-profit housing sector will be the only builder of new residential rental units, at enormous cost to the Ontario taxpayers.

"This law, if enacted, will be detrimental to the interests of tenants and property owners across the province.

"The rent-freeze legislation, Bill 4, has already put thousands of workers on the unemployment rolls and Bill 121 threatens the permanent loss of 25,000 jobs.

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"(1) To cancel the proposed Rent Control Act;

"(2) To encourage the government of Ontario to work with tenants, property owners and all interested parties to develop a new law which will be fair to all; and

"(3) To encourage that in this new legislation the interests of housing affordability and tenant protection are balanced with a recognition of the importance of allowing needed repairs to rental buildings to be financed and completed and the role of the private sector in the construction of new rental housing."

#### EDUCATION FINANCING

**Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre):** I present a petition on behalf of 145 constituents, parents of children attending Cardinal Newman school. It states:

"We, the ratepayers, parents, staff and students of the Metropolitan Separate School Board, are concerned about the way in which Catholic education is funded by the Ontario government in Metropolitan Toronto.

"Although separate schools have been given the right to provide education to the end of grade 12 OAC, they were never given equal funding. For example, in 1991 a

Catholic elementary school child in Metro was educated with 75% of the money spent on his or her public school counterpart and the Catholic high school student was allotted only 70% of the money spent on his or her public school counterpart. These differences represent a shortfall of \$1,678 per student at the elementary level and \$2,502 at the high school level.

"We urge you to act now to restructure the way in which municipal and provincial tax dollars are apportioned so that Ontario's two principal education systems are funded not only fully but with equity and equality."

I affix my signature.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition and it is from the merchants of Erin Mills Town Centre. It's been forwarded to me by Cadillac Fairview and it reads as follows:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the impact that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

I have affixed my signature to this petition.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** I have a petition from the good people of West Hill, Etobicoke, Nepean, Blenheim and Sarnia, and it didn't cost the government anything for this petition, not \$300 an hour like Jack Layton's going to charge just to find out public opinion.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** And your petition reads as follows.

**Mr Stockwell:** In fact this is free, and there are many more to come.

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses"—

Interjection.

**Mr Stockwell:** They're cackling again.

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

That's signed by 250 people, not one of whom did Jack Layton have to consult with for \$300. This is the kind of approach the government should use.

**The Speaker:** Order. Would the member simply present his petition.

**Mr Stockwell:** I will affix my name.

**Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale):** I have a petition from 132 people, stretching from Scarborough, Stouffville,

Burk's Falls, Sundridge, Goderich, London and Toronto. The petition reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario's labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I have affixed my signature thereto.

#### EDUCATION FINANCING

**Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre):** On behalf of 42 constituents of the school of St Albert, I present a petition:

"That serious inequity exists in funding of the separate school boards throughout Ontario. This results in fewer funds with which to educate our students. In 1991 alone, the Metropolitan Separate School Board spent \$1,678 less per elementary school student and \$2,502 less per secondary school student than in Metro public school boards.

"We, the undersigned, request that this inequity in funding be corrected immediately by our provincial government."

I affix my signature of support.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West):** I have a petition that's signed by 611 people from places like Brockville, Maitland, Orleans, Maple, Barrie and Nobleton. The petition reads as follows:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I too have affixed my name to this petition.

#### ABORTION

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** "To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas medical and biological sciences have proven conclusively that human life begins at conception, therefore abortion is the direct killing of a human being. Over one million unborn Canadians have been killed in our country since 1969;

"Whereas abortion cannot be construed as a medical procedure since the aim of medicine is to cure and to heal, not to take life, abortion has only one purpose, and that is to terminate the life of an unborn child. This has nothing to do with medical care.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"We strongly object to the plan by the Ontario Health Minister to increase abortion facilities, provide full funding for the killing of babies, and pay travel expenses for women in remote areas to secure abortions.

"We, the taxpayers, resent having our tax money used in such destructive policies. This money could be used instead for helping women with crisis pregnancies to have their babies, providing subsequent support for them, both emotional and financial, as well as providing adoption services.

"We strongly urge you to consider the population depletion caused by widespread abortion, which has already become a crucial problem not only in Ontario but across Canada. This problem will only get worse if your abortion policies are implemented.

"Therefore, we plead with you to implement life-enhancing policies that will respect the dignity of all human life, including the unborn.

It has 2,500 names, gathered together by Ruth Cogan of Thornhill.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** I have one further petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 282 signatories of Woodbridge, Thornhill, Weston, Aurora and Rexdale.

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to the Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I have affixed my signature to that.

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas investment and job creation is essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the impact that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

This petition has been signed by individuals from Eastern Construction, Culliton Brothers Ltd, J.W. Green Construction Management Ltd, Insulec Ltd, Westroc Industries

Ltd, Armco Agencies Inc, Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association, Square One Shopping Centre, Dominion Sheet Metal and Roofing Works, the A.G. Simpson Co Ltd, London Steel, VicWest Steel, S.G. Smallwood Ltd, Ennisteel Service Centre, Mollenhauer, and Courtice Steel Inc. I have affixed my signature to these petitions.

1550

#### MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** I have a petition addressed to the Legislature of Ontario.

"Whereas the report of Mr John Brant, arbitrator for the greater London area, has recommended a massive, unwarranted and unprecedented annexation by the city of London;

"Whereas the arbitration process was a patently undemocratic process resulting in recommendations which blatantly disregard the public input expressed during the public hearings;

"Whereas the implementation of the arbitrator's report will lead to the destruction of the way of life enjoyed by the current residents of the county of Middlesex and will result in the remnant portions of Middlesex potentially not being economically viable;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

This is signed by 33 residents of the city of London and the county of Middlesex.

#### DAY CARE

**Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West):** This is a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the Ministry of Community and Social Services has undertaken a consultation which does not address the major policy changes inherent in its plan; and

"Whereas the policy changes are basically discriminatory; and

"Whereas we believe the government commitment to child care should be licensing and monitoring and funding only via transfers to the municipalities to cover the cost of families in need;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to treat all child care operations equally and to cease funding capital and start-up costs of non-profit agencies to provide subsidies which will cover the true cost of care for the children whose parents qualify for assistance."

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** I have a petition. It's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to the Ontario Labour Legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

This is signed by 245 people from Cornwall, Mississauga, Markham, North York and Elmira.

**Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey):** I have 250 signatures from Kincardine, Hanover, Durham, Walkerton and Wiarton. It's a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to the Ontario labour Legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

#### REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

##### STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mr Callahan from the standing committee on public accounts presented the committee's 1990-91 annual report.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Does the member wish to make a brief statement?

**Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South):** Not at this time.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### RETAIL SALES TAX AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

##### LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LA TAXE DE VENTE AU DÉTAIL

Ms Wark-Martyn moved first reading of Bill 32, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la taxe de vente au détail.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon Shelley Wark-Martyn (Minister of Revenue):** This bill, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act, puts into effect the changes announced by the Treasurer in his budget of April 30, 1992. The bill includes stricter controls that will make the used vehicle market both fair and equitable for sellers and buyers of used motor vehicles.

When a vehicle is sold, retail sales tax will be paid on either the purchase price or the average wholesale price, whichever is greater. At the request of the industry, an administrative amendment will eliminate the requirement to enter into a written contract to convert a motor vehicle

to the use of alternative fuel within 90 days of the vehicle purchase.

This bill also contains a number of other administrative changes needed to carry out day-to-day operations under the act.

REPRESENTATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1992  
LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI  
SUR LA REPRÉSENTATION ÉLECTORALE

Mr Beer moved first reading of Bill 33, An Act to amend the Representation Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la représentation électorale.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr Charles Beer (York North):** There are two reasons I am proposing a change of the name of my riding from York North to York-Mackenzie.

First, while I have tremendous admiration for all those who live in the city of North York, I find that again and again the riding of York North is always referred to as "North York"—we get a tremendous number of phone calls and letters—so it was felt we wanted to make a distinction between York North and the city of North York. There is also a federal riding of the same name.

Equally important, I think we should be using more history in the names of our ridings. York-Mackenzie has been selected in tribute to three of our distinguished legislators and political leaders named Mackenzie: William Lyon Mackenzie, who was the member of the colonial Legislature of Upper Canada for York county; William Lyon Mackenzie King, who was the Prime Minister of Canada and member of Parliament for York North riding, and Major A. Alexander Mackenzie, who was the member of the Ontario Legislature for York North from 1945 to 1967. I believe this is a sensible change and one that in particular will underline and give note to our history. York-Mackenzie would be that name.

VEHICLE TRANSFER PACKAGE  
STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992  
LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS  
EN CE QUI CONCERNE  
LES DOSSIERS DE TRANSFERT DE VÉHICULES

Mr Pouliot moved first reading of Bill 34, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act and the Personal Property Security Act in respect of Vehicle Transfer Packages / Loi modifiant le Code de la route et la Loi sur les sûretés mobilières à l'égard des dossiers de transfert de véhicules.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation):** An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act and the Personal Property Security Act in respect of Vehicle Transfer Packages puts into effect changes announced by the Treasurer in his budget of April 30, 1992. This bill introduces a new product, the vehicle transfer package, that will provide consumers with information on used motor vehicles. It's a first in the province of Ontario.

This measure will also address problems in the used motor vehicle market and should assist both sellers and buyers of used motor vehicles. In order to conduct a private sale, a seller will be required to purchase a vehicle

transfer package that must be passed on to the buyer as part of the registration requirements. This package will also contain a vehicle description and history of the vehicle, including lien information, a fair market value of the vehicle based on an average wholesale price and other consumer information.

This bill also contains changes to the Personal Property Security Act that are required to implement this new program.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of the whole.

RENT CONTROL ACT, 1992  
LOI DE 1992 SUR LE CONTRÔLE DES LOYERS

Deferred votes on Bill 121, An Act to Revise the Law related to Residential Rent Regulation / Loi révisant les lois relatives à la réglementation des loyers d'habitation.

**The Chair (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Call in the members. This will be a 10-minute bell.

1610

The committee divided on Ms Poole's amendment to subsection 1(1) relating to "board," which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 18; nays 76.

The committee divided on Ms Poole's amendment to subsection 1(1) relating to "standards board," which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 33; nays 61.

The committee divided on whether section 1, as amended, should stand as part of the bill, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes 62; nays 32.

The committee divided on Ms Poole's amendment to subsection 12(1), which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 33; nays 61.

Section 12 agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to subsection 13(8), which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

Ayes 61; nays 33.

Section 13, as amended, agreed to.

Section 14 agreed to.

The committee divided on whether section 14.1 should stand as part of the bill, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 18; nays 76.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to clause 15(2)(e), which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes 61; nays 33.

Section 15, as amended, agreed to.

The committee divided on whether sections 16 and 18 should stand as part of the bill, which was agreed to on the same vote.

The committee divided on Ms Poole's amendment to subsection 18(1), which was negated on the same vote reversed.

Section 19 agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to clauses 20(1)(a) to (c), which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

**Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Are members required to vote on each and every single vote or may they abstain?

**The Chair:** They must vote.

**Mr Eves:** I believe the member for Durham Centre did not vote on the last amendment.

**The Chair:** How do you vote?

**Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre):** It's already been counted, Mr Speaker.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

1620

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to 20(1)(f), which was agreed to on the same vote.

The committee divided on Ms Poole's amendment to subsection 20(3), which was negated on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on Ms Poole's amendment to subsection 20(4), which was negated on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on Ms Poole's amendment to subsection 20(4.1), which was negated on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to subsection 20(8), which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to subsection 20(9), which was agreed to on the same vote.

Section 20, as amended, agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to subsection 21(5), which was agreed to on the same vote.

The committee divided on Mrs Marland's amendment to subsection 21(6.1), which was negated on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to subsection 21(10) to 21(12) inclusive, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

Section 21, as amended, agreed.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to subsection 22(4), which was agreed to on the same vote.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to subsection 22(10), which was agreed to on the same vote.

Section 22, as amended, agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Poole's amendment to section 22.1, which was negated on the same vote reversed.

Section 23 agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Poole's amendment to subsection 24(4), which was negated on the same vote.

The committee divided on Mrs Marland's amendment to subsection 24(4), which was negated on the same vote.

Section 24 agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Poole's amendment to section 25, which was negated on the same vote.

Section 25 agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Poole's amendment to section 26, which was negated on the same vote.

Section 26 agreed to.

Section 27 agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to subsection 28(3), which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

Section 28, as amended, agreed to.

The committee divided on Mrs Marland's amendment to clause 29(2)(c.1), which was negated on same vote reversed.

Section 29 agreed to.

Sections 30 to 33, inclusive, agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Poole's amendment to sections 34 to 41, which was negated on the same vote.

Section 34 agreed to.

Sections 35 to 38, inclusive, agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to subsection 39(3), which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

Section 39, as amended, agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to clause 40(1)(b), which was agreed to on the same vote.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to subsection 40(2), which was agreed to on the same vote.

Section 40, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 41 to 48, inclusive, agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to subsection 49(1), which was agreed to on the same vote.

Section 49, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 50 to 60, inclusive, agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to subsections 61(2) to (4), which was agreed to on the same vote.

Section 61, as amended, agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to subsection 62(4), which was agreed to on the same vote.

Section 62, as amended, agreed to.

Section 63 agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to clause 64(1)(a), which was agreed to on the same vote.

Section 64, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 65 to 94, inclusive, agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Poole's amendment to subsections 95(1) to 95(14), which was negatived on the same vote reversed.

Section 95 agreed to.

Sections 96 to 103, inclusive, agreed to.

1630

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to subsection 104(7), which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes 61; nays 33.

Section 104, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 105 to 113, inclusive, agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to subsection 114(2), which was agreed to on the same vote.

Section 114, as amended, agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to subsection 115(2), which was agreed to on the same vote.

Section 115, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 116 to 118, inclusive, agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Poole's amendment to clause 119(a), which was negatived on the same vote reversed.

Section 119 agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Poole's amendment to clause 120(3)(a), which was negatived on the same vote.

Section 120 agreed to.

Sections 121 to 124, inclusive, agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Poole's amendment to section 125.1, which was negatived on the same vote.

Section 125 agreed to.

Sections 126 to 128, inclusive, agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Poole's amendment to sections 129.1 to 129.14, which was negatived on the same vote.

Section 129 agreed to.

Sections 130 to 134, inclusive, agreed to.

The committee divided on Ms Gigantes's amendment to subsection 135(1), which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on Mrs Marland's amendment to subsection 135(1.1), which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes 94; nays 0.

Section 135, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 136 to 140, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill, as amended, ordered to be reported.

On motion by Mr Cooke, the committee of the whole reported one bill with certain amendments.

## RENT CONTROL ACT, 1992

### LOI DE 1992 SUR LE CONTRÔLE DES LOYERS

Ms Gigantes moved third reading of Bill 121, An Act to revise the Law related to Residential Rent Regulation / Loi révisant les lois relatives à la réglementation des loyers d'habitation.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** There is a lot of noise in this chamber. I realize that members do have other places to attend; however, please be as quiet as possible. The honourable Minister of Housing.

**Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I'm very proud of this legislation because the days of high rent increases for tenants in Ontario are finally over. Bill 121 also ensures better maintenance and repair of our rental buildings. All of us in this House hope that by being here we can in some way make a real difference for the constituency we represent and for the people of Ontario, and I think this Rent Control Act will make such a difference.

It's legislation which prevents high rent increases and, equally important, it's legislation which will reduce the fear of economic eviction, the fear that just around the corner lies a rent increase that will force tenants out of their homes. In the past, under existing rent review in Bill 51, we've seen tenants being required by law to pay rent increases of 30%, 40% and 50%. In some cases those rent increases have gone as high as 100% in a single year. In many cases we have seen rent review decisions that loaded increases of 20% plus per year, year after year. It's been an intolerable experience for thousands and thousands of tenants in this province. There is no excuse for it, and there's no defence of a system of rent regulation which has allowed it to happen.

That was the rent review system that was in place when our government took office in 1990. It was a system under which any tenant in the province could be faced at any time, once a year, with a rent increase of any amount. Tenants had only one choice: pay or get out. It was all quite legal and quite acceptable under a system of rent review which claimed to protect tenants while allowing landlords high rent increases to pay for such things as their financial losses after they had purchased buildings at inflated costs. In truth, the rent review system we've had has been one which guaranteed the landlords earned profits but provided tenants with very little protection. That's why we stopped it in its tracks the moment our government came to office.

During the past 18 months, we've conducted one of the most extensive public consultations ever held on the issue of rent regulation. Our goal was to give every landlord and tenant and every interest group involved in the province an opportunity to make their views known on rent control.

The result of that extensive consultation and of the give and take of legislative amendment is before the House today. The central feature of the legislation is protection for tenants from high rent increases. That's got to be the obvious focus of any real system of tenant protection, just as the first question on the mind of any tenant in Ontario is: How much can my rent go up?

The answer is that a maximum rent can go up once each year by the rent control guideline plus no more than 3%. There are two aspects to this, and I'd like to speak for a moment to each of them: the rent control guideline and the 3% cap.

The Rent Control Act allows landlords to raise the rent of a tenant once a year by the amount of the rent control guideline. The landlord does not need the permission of the Ministry of Housing to charge the rent guideline increase. The guideline will be calculated annually and it will reflect the inflationary costs of running a rental building. These are increases in the costs of such things as janitorial service, heat, hydro, water and municipal taxes. The guideline also includes a 2% allowance to pay for normal building repairs.

1640

As a result, every landlord in Ontario can charge every tenant in Ontario one rent increase each year to cover the cost of inflation and the cost of regular repairs. That's the guideline increase.

On the 3% cap, during our consultations on rent control landlords asked to be able to get rent increases above the rent control guideline in order to pay for major repairs. In response, we estimated the amount of money that would be required to do all the necessary repairs to their buildings during the next 10 years.

We calculated that landlords would need between \$4 billion and \$7 billion for major repairs during the coming decade and, as a result, this rent control system allows landlords to obtain more than \$8 billion within the 2% allowed in the guideline alone for repairs during the next 10 years.

I want to stress that point because there's been a tremendous amount of misinformation on the issue of repairs. There have been all kinds of statements, including a petition tabled by some members of this Legislature, claiming that the new rent control legislation will not allow landlords to obtain enough money to do repairs to their buildings, which is absolute nonsense.

In fact, most landlords never apply for an increase above the rent control guideline. The vast majority of landlords, about 80% annually, are able to continue to maintain their buildings using only the guideline rent increase each year. This is hardly a system which denies landlords the funds they need to repair their buildings.

Bill 121 provides a system which balances the need for landlords to repair their buildings with the need for tenants to be protected from high rent increases. With this legislation we are ensuring for the first time ever that tenants pay only for legitimate repairs.

The Rent Control Act allows a landlord to claim for repairs which fall into one of four categories, and these are: repairs to ensure the structure and soundness of the building; repairs required to meet health, safety or environmental standards; repairs to provide access for disabled persons and repairs to increase energy or water conservation. In other words, these are necessary, legitimate repairs.

Under the Rent Control Act, tenants are no longer required to pay for the landlord's financing costs or for unwanted luxury repairs or renovations to their building. The

bill also stipulates that the repairs cannot be generated by neglect of the landlord.

The landlord must also show that the 2% allowance for repairs, which is contained in the annual rent control guideline, has already been spent on necessary repairs. In other words, the landlord must spend the 2% in the guideline on eligible repair work before claiming any of the possible further 3% rent increase.

Finally, under this legislation tenants have a right to a hearing. A landlord has to prove the need for the repairs and the cost of the repairs at a rent control hearing.

There's one further point I'd like to make on the issue of repairs. It involves reductions in the rent of tenants when repairs have been paid for. Under this legislation, when a repair is paid for five or 10 years down the road, the rent of the tenants in the building is reduced accordingly.

In other words, tenants no longer pay for repairs compounded for ever and ever. With this legislation, for the first time, tenants no longer pay for repairs past the point where the landlord has recovered the cost of the repair. When a legitimate repair has been paid for, the rent of the tenants is reduced.

This legislation addresses another area of real importance to tenants, and that's maintenance. The Rent Control Act contains powers to prohibit any rent increases at all if there is an outstanding provincial or municipal work order against a building. Tenants should not be paying even guideline rent increases if their building is maintained poorly, and if there is poor maintenance this legislation gives the tenants the right to obtain a rent reduction. Landlords have an obligation to maintain their buildings and this legislation will help ensure that they do.

There's one other issue I'd like to draw to the attention of members. I want to make it clear to those watching at home that while this law is before the House today for third reading, it will not take effect until later this summer. We need to allow for a smooth transition from the current rent review system to the new rent control system. The transition period will give staff the time for training of field office personnel, reorganizing the system and regulating the notices and forms required by the legislation.

Finally, there are a great many people I'd like to thank for their contributions to this legislation, first and foremost the members of our caucus, specifically the parliamentary assistant for Housing, Margaret Harrington, and the member for Wentworth North, Don Abel, who travelled across the province to conduct the public meetings on the legislation. A word of special thanks also goes to Dave Cooke, Minister of Municipal Affairs and our intrepid House leader, who initiated rent control reform when he was Minister of Housing.

I'd also like to thank the many members of the public, individuals and interest groups throughout Ontario who took the time to participate in this process.

Thanks also should be given to the critics for the opposition parties, the member for Eglinton, the member for Mississauga South and the member for Dufferin-Peel, each of whom provided suggestions which have improved the legislation.

I'd like to thank the staff of my office, led by Tim Welch, for their help and support, and also the staff of the Ministry of Housing for their hard work and the excellence of their work. I know their expert advice and knowledge have been appreciated by members on all sides of the House, and none more than the great contribution of skill and dedication by Colleen Parrish, policy director for the Ministry of Housing.

On behalf of all the elected representatives here, please accept our warm thanks.

**The Acting Speaker:** Questions and/or comments on the minister's opening remarks? Seeing none, further debate?

**Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau):** I rise today to speak to third reading of Bill 121, the Rent Control Act. As we all know, this legislation, which received first reading on June 6, 1991, is this government's long-term legislation designed to replace the existing Residential Rent Regulation Act, which was implemented by the previous Liberal government.

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** Sorry to interrupt. On a point of order, Mr Speaker: It's my understanding that by agreement of the House leaders, it's been agreed that there will be 45 minutes allocated to each of the opposition parties. I understand that was agreed to with Mr Cooke. If that's the case and there are no other speakers on the government side, then that should go on the clock.

**The Acting Speaker:** Do we have unanimous agreement? Therefore we will be splitting the time equally between now and 6 of the clock.

**Mr Mahoney:** There was a requirement by the Conservative caucus to have a minimum of 45 minutes. This means it will go past 6 of the clock this evening and the final vote will take place tomorrow, and the debate will continue tomorrow. It's 45 minutes for each of the opposition parties to speak to the bill.

**The Acting Speaker:** Do we have agreement where the two opposition parties would share, with 45 minutes of specified time each, with no questions and/or comments? Do we have agreement?

**Interjections:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker:** Agreed.

1650

**Mrs O'Neill:** If I may continue, Mr Speaker, as I rose in this House over a year ago to address my concerns about Bill 4, I said that for various reasons it was bad legislation. Bill 121, I say with regret, does not go very far to alleviate the concerns I had at that time.

Since this extremely complex piece of legislation was introduced in this House almost exactly a year ago, the legislation has gone through the committee process and both public hearings and clause-by-clause hearings have been held right across this province. Over and over again the committee heard from small landlords whose life savings were being put at risk by this bill. Over and over again their concerns have been ignored. We see very little in the final version of the legislation to reflect their legitimate concerns.

My Liberal colleagues have spoken often about many sections of this bill that are of particular concern to them. I therefore limit my comments to one particular aspect of this legislation which is of significant concern to me and to a number of my constituents in Ottawa-Rideau.

I would like to discuss part II of the bill. This part of the bill allows applications for rent increases above the maximum 3% guideline, subject to reviews by administrative staff of the Ministry of Housing, with provisions for appeal to Divisional Court on matters of law only. Sections 62 to 68 define the administrative review process. This part of the new legislation establishes a director of rent control and provides for the resolution of disputes by administrative review or by a single hearing under the Statutory Powers Procedure Act.

I quote from a letter I received from Mr Roger Greenberg, president of Minto Developments: "Bill 121 proposes that a Ministry of Housing administrator will have total discretion to make a rent control determination. There will be no independent appeal process if either party is dissatisfied with the decision or even if there is a clerical error. There will only be a costly court appeal and then only on a point of law."

Tenants and small and large landlords are losing a fundamental avenue of appeal in Bill 121. That concerns me. Requests to review decisions will now stop at the bureaucratic door. This process will do nothing to improve tenant-landlord relations in this province, nor can it be called a more streamlined rent review process.

I continue to have concerns about the maintenance provisions of Bill 121, as well. The capital expenditure provisions have been called completely unrealistic. We all know 65% of Ontario's rental housing stock is over 20 years old. All our rental units are getting older and require ongoing repair and maintenance. In a letter to me, a constituent cites the example of a fairly typical large-scale and certainly not uncommon maintenance project: the repair of a parking garage due to salt damage to the structural concrete.

Under Bill 121, only a very small portion of the cost of this necessary maintenance can be recovered by the landlord. Only 3% of the capital expenditure will be allowed for a period of two consecutive years. In my constituent's example, the cost for this work could be between \$300,000 and \$400,000. Only \$18,000 to \$24,000 would be recoverable over the first two years. The remainder would have to be absorbed by the landlord from already restricted profit margins. I'm talking about a major necessary repair.

Tenants are not happy with the maintenance provisions of this bill either. Tenants have a very strong interest in the maintenance of their homes, just as landlords do. If landlords cannot afford to maintain the integrity of Ontario's rental housing stock, the tenants will ultimately bear the burden. That's where the fears lie. Tenants' groups are concerned that the allowable maintenance increases can be phased in over two or three years, depending on the size of the building, and that landlords will be able to hide larger-than-inflation increases over several years. Tenants are also concerned about the double standard between large and small buildings and the double standard between new and existing buildings.

I must repeat what I said earlier: This bill does not represent a process of streamlining. Bill 121 is regressive rather than progressive. It does not give either tenants or landlords a sense of security in the Ontario rental market in the 1990s. Tenants cannot feel secure that the long-term integrity of rental housing stock, their homes in Ontario, will be maintained under this piece of legislation. Landlords, on the other hand, cannot feel secure they can achieve a fair return on the investments they make to protect their businesses. I share the disappointment of all partners in the rental housing industry in the passage of this piece of legislation, Bill 121.

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** When the Bob Rae government passes Bill 121 the future of Ontario's tenants, property owners, construction workers and rental housing stock will be dealt a staggering blow.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** Bob Rae's socialist government.

**Mrs Marland:** The Minister of Housing just corrected me, that it is in fact the Bob Rae socialist government that is passing this bill. She is absolutely correct. As a result of the NDP socialist government's rent control legislation, Ontario will suffer a deterioration of existing rental housing, a poisoning of the relations between tenants and property owners, a virtual halt to the construction of new rental housing and enormous job losses because of lost business in the construction and renovation of rental housing.

An employment impact study by Morrison Hershfield Ltd, Consulting Engineers, and Clayton Research Associates estimates that as a result of Bills 4 and 121, 25,000 jobs will be lost in this province. The reason for these losses is that the 3% allowance for rent increases above the guideline, combined with other restrictions in Bill 121, simply cannot fund the apartment renovation work that is required. For every \$100 million of renovation work that does not proceed, about 31,000 person-years of employment are lost.

Last October laid-off construction workers gathered at Queen's Park and symbolically presented the Minister of Housing with a box of pink slips representing the thousands of jobs lost when Ontario's rental housing employment base collapsed in response to Bill 4. It was a sorry sight of talent going to waste due to this socialist government's blindness to the realities of Ontario's housing market.

The job losses continue with the impending passage of Bill 121. Just last week the Concrete Restoration Association of Ontario provided examples of some of its member companies that have lost jobs as a direct result of Bills 4 and 121. All of the following figures are in comparison to September 1990 when Bill 4 came into effect.

These are examples we have received from the Concrete Restoration Association of Ontario: Macdero, down 25% in jobs, down 25 men; Duron Ontario, 34 men employed in September 1990, presently employing two men, down \$3 million to \$4 million annually in jobs; Donovan, down 60% in work and lost 50% of workforce; Maxim, down 10 to 15 men, lost \$2 million of work; Clane went

from 55 men to seven, lost \$1.8 million to \$4.5 million worth of work; Harrell, down 75% in jobs and lost six men.

1700

Those are job losses that affect many hundreds, in fact thousands, of families across this province. The concrete restoration industry estimates its apartment contracts were slashed by as much as 63% due to rent control legislation, compared with only 4% as a result of recessionary factors. Clearly the NDP government's legislation is crippling the construction sector in Ontario. Not only the people who lose their jobs, but also the tenants whose buildings will not be repaired and restored will suffer as a result of Bill 121. The NDP socialists are betraying the very people they claim to be protecting.

I would like to examine briefly the measures in Bill 121 which will prevent the upkeep of rental accommodation. I have already mentioned that a 3% increase above the guideline for major capital repairs will not be sufficient for property owners to afford those costly repairs. To make matters worse, property owners will have to prove the repairs they undertake are not the result of neglect before they can obtain the increase. As well, tenants will be able to apply for a rent decrease on the grounds of inadequate maintenance. However, Bill 121 never defines "neglect" or "inadequate maintenance." The rent officers, whose training and expertise have not even been considered by the Minister of Housing, will make the final determinations of what is or is not neglect. It will be impossible to appeal their decisions. Under such circumstances, who could possibly want to own a rental building?

In New York City, where the sorry state of much of the rental housing is a testament to the disastrous consequences of rent control, there have been cases where unscrupulous tenants have purposefully damaged their buildings or apartments in order to obtain a rent reduction. The owners are then forced to make repairs which are construed to be neglect. We only have to look at the resulting square miles of slums and abandoned buildings in New York City to know that this is not what we want for Toronto or any other city in Ontario.

In addition to requiring the property owner to prove that there has not been neglect in order to qualify for the 3% above-the-guideline increase, the minister introduced an amendment in committee which stipulated that the 2% within the guideline for capital expenditures will not be guaranteed each year. When the property owner applies for an above-the-guideline increase, he not only has to justify the use of the requested increase, but also has to account for the use of the 2% within the guideline.

Every tenant and property owner can attest to the fact that there are always minor repairs which need to be undertaken each year, such as new carpets, painting or plumbing and heating maintenance. The 2% in the guideline was supposed to accommodate these routine expenditures. If this 2% has to be rolled into the amount required to qualify for an above-the-guideline increase, minor repairs will be passed over or neglected in order to undertake major capital repairs. The property owner is then put in the lose-lose position of either pursuing the building's upkeep through small repairs each year and ignoring the larger

projects, only to be penalized for neglect, or sacrificing normal upkeep in order to qualify for the maximum above-the-guideline increase, still accruing enormous debt, being charged with neglect and likely losing the building.

As if this were not enough, the NDP socialist government further compounded the problem by applying costs no longer borne to capital expenditures, so that the 2% in the guideline was further threatened. If this mistake had not been corrected, the 2% could have been lifted out of the calculation of the maximum rent once the costs were deemed to have been recovered. Fortunately, the government agreed to a PC amendment to section 135, which corrected this situation so that property owners would not lose the 2% to which they were rightfully entitled. We, as members of the Progressive Conservative caucus, are proud of the fact that we were able to point out to the government this blatant error in its poorly drafted legislation.

It is obvious, from the weaknesses I have outlined, that property owners will not be able to recuperate the costs of necessary capital repairs to their buildings. As a result, the buildings will fall into disrepair. Many property owners will lose their investments and tenants will be left without sufficient housing and with substandard housing. One can only hope that this NDP socialist government's legislation will not do irreparable damage before the government can be defeated in the next provincial election and Bill 121 repealed.

Another major problem with Bill 121 is that financial institutions have indicated that they will be reluctant to provide financing to property owners who cannot guarantee a steady rental income for a building because of the rent decrease provisions of the bill. This will make it very difficult for many property owners to refinance their buildings and will stop many prospective property owners from purchasing rental housing.

This is not the only financing problem that is a direct consequence of Bill 121. Another is the fact that increased financing costs, a market condition over which property owners have no control, will not be considered when a property owner applies for an above-the-guideline increase. Although a Progressive Conservative amendment correcting this situation was passed by the general government committee, the government did an about-face and retracted the amendment during the committee of the whole House.

I mentioned earlier the difficulty with the rent officer, who will make the final decisions on whether to grant rent increases or decreases. In committee I identified major problems with the undefined expertise of the rent officers and the lack of an appeal process for their decisions.

The almighty wizards, these rent officers, whose training the minister has not even yet considered, will arbitrarily make decisions on whether capital expenditures qualify for a rent increase. When I asked the ministry in committee if this seemed appropriate, Colleen Parrish, the director of the housing policy branch, said that, like judges, the rent officers will have evidence placed before them and will have to pass judgement based on that evidence. But judges are among our society's most highly educated and experienced professionals. What sort of expertise will rent officers

have to make decisions that decide whether property owners may receive some remuneration for repairs that cost thousands, even millions, of dollars? Obviously these wizards who render the final judgements must also have clear criteria for their decisions. However, Bill 121, with its lack of adequate definitions, still lacks those criteria.

Turning to another problematic area—

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Apparently the government is so disinterested in what opposition thinks of it that we don't have a quorum in the House.

The Acting Speaker ordered the bells rung.

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**The Acting Speaker:** A quorum is now present. The honourable member for Mississauga South may resume her participation in the debate.

**Mr Turnbull:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: That time has been taken away from our 45 minutes. That is not what is agreed.

**The Acting Speaker:** I'm advised by the table that the time has not been taken from the allocated time.

**Mrs Marland:** Turning to another problematic area of Bill 121, this legislation has no appeal process except an expensive, time-consuming court case, and then only on points of law. An appeal process has been inherent in the system of rent control since its institution. Due to Bill 121's lack of definitions and directives for those who enforce it, an appeal process is required, more so for this legislation than any which preceded it. It is unconscionable that the process for determining legal rents can be arbitrarily decided by one person, the rent officer.

At the beginning of these remarks I mentioned that poisoned relations between property owners and tenants will be the inevitable outcome of Bill 121. Property owners unable to afford the upkeep of their buildings will be resented by tenants living in units that require repair work. As well, the bill disturbs the balance of power that presently exists between property owner and tenant, tilting the scales on the side of the tenant. Balance must be restored if we are to have healthy rental housing conditions in Ontario.

If the NDP socialist government really had vision and intestinal fortitude, it would have considered instituting rent decontrol, since the present conditions of higher vacancy rates and lower land prices than we have had in many years would result in reasonable rents and an increase in rental housing stocks. Those families that could not afford market rents would be helped through a system of direct shelter subsidies, and the taxpayers would be paying less to help more people.

There will always be people who need help with their rents. There will always be people in our society who need protection against the cost of housing at any price. We know who those people are. They are people with disabilities whose earning power is reduced because of their disabilities, people on fixed incomes and so forth, the examples we already have addressed in our debate in this House. Those people will always need protection, and our Progressive Conservative Party is in favour of protecting those people from rents which they cannot afford.

A shelter subsidy program could help all the 250,000 Ontario families that spend more than 25% of their income on rent, for a cost of \$410 million a year. Compare that to the \$428 million we spent last year to subsidize just 68,000 units of non-profit housing, not to mention the \$41-million cost of administering the rent control system.

The majority of families that are in core need have incomes of less than \$20,000 a year. Rent control does not help them, since they can't afford the rents anyway. In fact, an Ontario government study shows that over half of rent review benefits go to the top 60% of households by income. In effect, by artificially capping rents, rent control subsidies subsidize everyone, even those who are well off. Instead, we should be providing direct assistance only to the people who are clearly in need.

Another beneficial effect of a shelter subsidy program is that regardless of income needy tenants would have a choice as to where they lived and would not be segregated and stigmatized in social housing projects. This socialist government, with its ideological blinkers, has tunnel vision when it comes to housing.

There is a way to ensure that all people in Ontario have decent shelter that is affordable, but it is not through rent control or government-funded non-profit housing. It is through a healthy free market, combined with direct subsidies to those in need.

The final comment I wish to make in closing is to emphasize once more, as I have done in the general government committee debate and in committee of the whole House debating this regressive Bill 121, that the socialist ideology of this government is not in the best interests of tenants or property owners. It's very clear where this socialist government is headed. Once more I want to place on the record the comments of the now Premier, Bob Rae, when in opposition he was quoted as saying the following: "You make it less profitable for people to own it (rental property). I would bring in a very rigid, tough system of rent review. Simple. Eliminate the exceptions and loopholes. There would be a huge squawk...and you say to them, 'If you're unhappy, we'll buy you out.'"

That quote comes directly from the then opposition leader Bob Rae and was quoted in a pre-election newsletter of the Federation of Metro Toronto Tenants' Associations, so there's no doubt in anybody's mind where this socialist government is headed. As it heads down this track to thinking that it, as a government, must be in the housing business and spend millions and millions of dollars in ownership of housing in order to protect people from rent increases that they cannot afford, it is misleading the public of this province.

The concern we have is that we know that with the same dollars that are currently being spent on their government housing programs we could look after four times as many people with the same investment by the taxpayers of this province. This bill, Bill 121, is just simply another step in the wrong direction.

The people who will be most hurt by this legislation in the long run are the people who are dependent on rental accommodation in Ontario today: those people who will never be able to afford to buy their own home, those peo-

ple who, for a number of reasons, never wanted to buy their own homes because they wanted the convenience of living in an apartment or in a rental town house. The point is that this government believes it has to make the choices for the people of this province. It wants to make sure that people live in buildings that are identified as social housing buildings.

We do not support the concept of returning to the old Ontario Housing developments where everybody knew where you lived and everybody knew that your rent was subsidized. What we believe is directly subsidizing the tenant so he can take the money and choose where he lives and he doesn't live in a building that is identified as a government housing project.

That's what we want for the future of tenants in this province. What we want for the future of property owners in this province is a fair investment return for the fact that they have bought properties which in turn provide housing for people who choose to rent in their properties.

I say, just in closing, that this has been a very long, tedious, dismal battle against Bill 121 and there is no way the interests of the public of this province can be served by this legislation. As I said in my comments a few minutes ago, we simply look forward to the day when the Progressive Conservative Party is the government and it can repeal this bill which is about to be passed.

1720

**Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North):** At the outset, let me say that, in terms of much of the general discussion, both in committee and in committee of the whole, that has taken place with respect to Bill 121, it has, I think, been comprehensive and in some cases exhaustive, and some might say in some cases exhausting.

I want at the outset to associate myself with many of the comments and submissions made by Ms Poole and Ms Caplan, particularly as I reviewed some of the committee of the whole debate of May 28, 1992. Might I also say to the member for Mississauga South that I share very much some of the concerns and sentiments she expressed. I say, quite frankly, that at the end of the day Bill 121 is going to have a negative impact in the great scheme of things in terms of housing and affordable housing for people in this province. Many people have attested to that and have set out the rationale for that conclusion. It will certainly be a matter of debate.

I come to a point the member for Mississauga South raised with respect to a particular issue. She said the government is approaching and proceeding on Bill 121 with its ideological blinkers on. I want to address that theme, if I can, for a few moments in relation to matters that surround energy, particularly in environmental issues.

Quite frankly, I read with some amazement the Hansard of last Thursday in committee of the whole. I read the comments recorded therein that the honourable minister raised in the House. Let me try to start at the back and work to where I want to go with this. I start with this. The minister says:

"For anyone to tell people in the energy conservation business and the water conservation business that these

simple"—and I want to come back to that phrase—"that these simple...additions to our tools for energy and water conservation are ruled out economically by this legislation is absolutely revolting."

Well, the minister may find me and some of my comments revolting, save and except for the fact that she was referring to these simple items—the \$12 to \$20 items. In that context I share wholeheartedly and it follows from that—

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** No, no.

**Mr McClelland:** She's saying, no, but in the context of Hansard, as I read it over the weekend and read it now, it was in respect of those small items.

Let me back up even a paragraph earlier. Help me to understand the dichotomy here. The minister is somewhat indignant that people would suggest that Bill 121 is an impediment, and I know in that context she was referring to some specific comments made about small capital items and saying that someone would have the temerity to even suggest it to the companies. But as we go backwards she says this as well:

"If I could add one other word, Mr Chair, it has been a matter of great irritation to me that the opponents of this legislation have been running around the countryside assuring all kinds of water conservation and energy conservation companies that the passage of Bill 121 is going to present great, big roadblocks to investment by landlords. Landlords have been going around," suggesting that this is going to cause problems in terms of energy investment.

I want to draw to your attention what the minister said earlier on in her comments. She throws it all back at landlords. The fact of the matter is, and the minister knows this very well, that other organizations—I refer only to one and it's been read into the record by the member for Eglinton. The Ontario Natural Gas Association, for one, read into the record its concerns with respect to Bill 121. I want to walk through a couple of very brief scenarios in terms of energy conservation, and not in terms of the small ticket items but the big ticket items. Those things require substantial capital and, I might add, not necessarily to be invested in by the tenants. Therein lies a philosophical argument that I think bears credibility.

The Minister of Housing says, "If the tenants are helping invest in it, surely they should get some return on their investment in that." But herein lies another scenario. In many cases landlords are saying they are prepared to come in with new money and try and put into place some very significant energy conservation initiatives, and they fear they will suffer. I say this word and I use it advisedly, that the landlord says: "We'll put in our new money. We'll realize the savings in the operation of the building and then we'll suffer the indignity of having that money taken away from us."

It has nothing to do with the ongoing operations. This is new money brought into the equation. I know that's difficult, and the minister is sort of looking sceptical, but understand that's the scenario that's out there right now.

The member for Eglinton spoke very well, as I read the Hansard, about the potential that currently exists in terms

of job creation. The fact of the matter is that there are commitments presently sitting on tables in the order of \$1 billion over the next five years for energy conservation initiatives that very clearly have been said by those people who are prepared to invest that the money will not go in light of Bill 121.

The minister shakes her head. I did not say that; it's the people who are prepared to put their money on the line to do it. They are the ones who are saying it. You can shake your head and you can deny it all you want, you can bury your head in the sand, but the reality is that the people who are prepared to do it are saying that unless there is some assurance that they won't have that money snatched back from them, they will not proceed with those projects.

What they're saying, among other things, is, "We're prepared to put capital into projects in buildings that will save Hydro money." What does that do? It allows Hydro, in the final analysis, to take that money and put it elsewhere. Hydro can save money it can invest in other things. In light of Bill 121, what happens is that Hydro has to come in spend money to produce energy that could otherwise be saved, and who ends up winning? Nobody ends up winning.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** The bill doesn't do what you're claiming.

**Mr McClelland:** It's absurd for the minister to sit there and shake her head and say that's not reality. The reality is that in the marketplace today, if you talk to people, it provides an opportunity. I am amazed, quite frankly, that the amendment to subsection 24(4) put in by the member for Eglinton was defeated and voted against by the Minister of Energy and the Minister of the Environment.

I want to try to focus my comments on that point and that point simply. It is absolutely absurd. The fact of the matter is that people in Hydro have done an impact study. The impact study done by Hydro asks the question, what will be the impact of Bill 121 on energy management programs that it is seeking to initiate in this province? The impact study reveals that the 240 megawatts which Hydro expected to achieve through its programs, many of them such as the showerhead programs, lightbulbs etc, will in all probability not happen in light of Bill 121. That's a Hydro-commissioned study, and representation has been made by the Ontario Natural Gas Association and others of a similar nature.

My point is simply that the failure to assure new capital the opportunity of return on their investment, the opportunity to not have that money snatched back from them basically sends out a message, and the net effect of that is that the money will not be invested. You live in a dream world if you think people are going to put new money into projects and have no assurance.

I understand that we're going to say, and the minister said this, "We feel that we can make arrangements through regulation that will indicate quite clearly that in the situations where tenants are not being asked to pay for the energy investments that are being made, the landlord in fact is working out an arrangement," and so on and that

everybody will be happy at end of the day. I paraphrased that very loosely.

Then the question remains, and I leave it rhetorically, I suppose, if you're so sure about that, why could you not incorporate that legislatively to give the assurance to people out there in the marketplace who have been sitting around, waiting, literally sitting on millions upon millions of dollars, wanting to move forward, having letters of commitment, ready to create new jobs that are desperately needed, pump money into the economy and save energy, something that is environmentally desirable? They have not been able to somehow get the message through to the government that, as the member for Mississauga South said so very well, has these ideological binders on and says: "I'm sorry, we have our program and we don't want to listen to reality. We have made up our minds and we're not prepared to consider the reality of the business equation out there."

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In light of that, I say to the Minister of Housing, you are doing a disservice to the working women and men of this province, who are losing job opportunities by your intransigence, and by not allowing some sanity to prevail in this instance you are preventing job creation literally as we speak. There are opportunities sitting waiting to happen, that are not going to happen, and jobs will be lost as a result of this.

Energy conservation programs will be forfeited, and at the end of the day we'll have thrown away opportunities because of some people who've quite frankly made up their minds that they don't want to listen to anybody else who might want to come to them and present in a very logical, empirical fashion, lay down the numbers, have an opportunity to meet with staff, meet with the minister, meet with officials of the government and present to them in an objective, rational fashion and say: "Will you at least listen? Will you at least take an opportunity to look at this and understand what you're doing?" The answer has been: "No, we're not interested. We have our plans. We're going to proceed with them and it doesn't matter what the cost is."

The cost is significant, and in this case it falls entirely on the Minister of Housing to bear responsibility for that. You can be as smug as you want about it, but the reality is that in the absence of providing some assurance that those moneys will be returned, you're costing jobs and you're curtailing investment, and the investment that has already been put into these projects is being stopped, literally as we speak.

**Mr Turnbull:** First of all, I'd like to get on record a statement about where the Conservative Party stands with regard to rental housing. We stand very clearly for the need for safe, clean, well-maintained and affordable housing, but unfortunately this bill doesn't deliver on those prerequisites.

Let's just turn for the moment to the problems with the existing Liberal rent control legislation that Bill 4 replaced. We know that when the NDP came to power, the existing Liberal legislation did encourage, to some extent, the sale

of buildings. We know the appeal process that existed under Bill 51 at the time was incredibly slow and frustrated tenants and landlords. In some cases, there were applications in for some two and three years. This had the effect that tenants were sometimes hit with some significantly large back-rent bills which they couldn't afford to pay if they hadn't in fact been paying on account to the landlord.

Also, the existing Bill 51 that Bill 4 replaced encouraged cosmetic repairs to the building, which was not the intent of any legislation. I don't blame the Liberals for that; it is just unfortunately one of the things that occurred. It also allowed for very significant increases in rents, which sometimes caused hardship.

I'd like to quote a tenant advocate by the name of Richard Fink from an article he wrote for the Rent Review Newsletter:

"Liberal rent review did not fall from the sky, but was created by the bureaucrats who had been at the Housing ministry prior to the change of government. They were told to take a 'different' direction. Their efforts resulted in a transformation of the anti-gouging PC legislation into a licence to increase rents five times the rate of inflation."

That may have been some hyperbole, but nevertheless it had some elements of truth in it.

Let's turn to this legislation, Bill 121. We know it's an extremely badly drafted piece of legislation. In point of fact, the government itself has brought in some 200 amendments to its own bill since it brought it forward, which shows it is clearly incompetent, in that it needs to make that kind of change. I guess they would probably argue that it shows how they were receptive to changes, but unfortunately the changes they made did not reflect the wishes of the people who came before our committee. We know that tenants or landlords expected different changes. It certainly didn't satisfy them.

This legislation is extremely complicated and confusing. I would suggest there are many members of this Legislature who do not understand the bill, and I would certainly suggest that the average tenant and the average landlord in this province could not conceivably understand this legislation. So what is this going to produce? It's going to produce a gold-mine for landlords and for accountants.

We know the legislation has some glaring shortcomings. The vast majority of tenants and landlords are absolutely honest and decent people, yet this legislation sets forth an adversarial relationship between the landlords and the tenants. It's too broad. It's trying to regulate those few unscrupulous landlords who hurt tenants. What it does is hurt all tenants and all landlords.

It ignores the increases over which landlords have no control and these are very often increases in costs which are controlled by the government: hydro costs, property taxes and insurance. We have noted that the government seems totally reluctant to offer any sort of legislation which will control those costs at, for example, the rate of inflation; I mean by that, municipal taxes or utility costs which certainly the government has tremendous control over.

We've been told that over the next three years Ontario Hydro will have a 44% increase in rates, yet this legislation

completely ignores that fact. Indeed, we're told there's a rolling average for a cost pass-through, which tenants don't understand and many landlords don't understand. It means this year some tenants will be paying as much as a 9% increase in a year of inflation of less than 2%. Tenants feel pretty hurt by that.

Rent increases are set by the government and it just ignores the state of the building. We have buildings that are in good condition where in fact this could be just pure profit for the landlord and we have buildings that are in incredibly bad condition which will mean absolute financial ruin for the landlord and deteriorating buildings for the tenants.

During the committee hearings I pointed out that the skewing of legislation in favour of landlords who owned newly renovated buildings would do nothing for the buildings that were most in need of repairs. It ignores such aspects of style or obsolescence. Out-of-date is something that will mean nothing to a landlord now, because the only possible items he can get any cost pass-through for are those basic elements of the building that require capital repair as a matter of course. We note that we have had no adequate definition of what the bill means by such basic terms as "neglect," "inadequate maintenance," or "necessary."

All this does is increase the bureaucracy and, gosh, is this ever a government which clings to bureaucracy. It loves bureaucracy. You would have every single person in the province working for the government, because that is the socialist agenda.

**Mr Mahoney:** At \$300 a day.

**Mr Turnbull:** Yes, indeed, at \$300 a day, like Jack Layton. Maybe there might be some people who would be very pleased to do that, but we're talking about people who can't afford the rent they're paying now.

The old system of rent review has been costing us \$43 million a year to administer. Surely we can find better uses for the money and the use should be to make sure those people who are underprivileged and who don't have enough to pay their rents should be helped.

I'd like to quote from a presentation made at the public hearings from the members of the Rent Review Hearings Board: "Board's concerns over the absence of an independent appeal tribunal mechanism within the proposed Rent Control Act: Those parties who most need an affordable, accessible and expeditious appeal mechanism will not be served. The vast majority of unrepresented tenants and small landlords cannot afford the costly court appeal process, the costs of which are counted in the tens of thousands of dollars."

My constituents who are tenants have complained that the legislation does not have sufficient avenues for appeal decisions made to rent officers. They wonder if there are sufficient officers with proper qualifications and, indeed, what those qualifications will be.

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I'd like to quote Bob Gosschalk, the president of the Federation of North York Tenants Associations: "To us, this limited right of appeal is a most undemocratic and

autocratic process. Instead of rent officers, independent panels should be set up to decide appeals." Quite simply, the bill should be repealed and the government should start all over again.

Turning to the question of consultation, from the annual report from 1991 of the Fair Rental Policy Organization of Ontario:

"We learned, first hand, that when it comes to dealing with the NDP, you must first throw out accepted government affairs practices. This new government invented its own protocol, and it was quite unlike anything we've experienced with previous governments.

"Examples? An NDP commitment to 'meaningful consultation' with the private sector proved a thinly veiled lie. Access to top government officials was restricted every step of the way.

"We were forced to participate in public hearings that were biased in favour of NDP views. And, rather than discuss rental housing problems and solutions directly with us, government preferred to draw us into high-profile media warfare, fuelling the debate with exaggerations and untruths which portrayed landlords as little better than criminals."

Turning to the question of affordability, we need affordable housing for the less privileged. This legislation does absolutely nothing to address the question of affordability. There are questions of prudence in devoting so much time, energy and resources to controlling luxury residential rents, which is so inappropriate. We need a credible alternative to ensure that people are adequately housed within their fiscal means. This does not solve any of the affordability problems. The lowest-income people are often paying 40%, 50% and even 60% of their income on rent, and they're ignored by this legislation. Instead, this government continues to push for expensive, ill-targeted non-profit and co-op housing.

Turning to non-profit housing, let us see what the government is doing with the taxpayers' dollars. This is the same government that will only give a 1% increase this year to hospitals and schools and yet this is what it's spending its money on. Non-profit housing costs grew from \$33 million in 1987-88 to an estimated \$620 million in 1992-93. That is a 1,780% increase in five years. Indeed, when you project out according to the government's own numbers, you can see that we will be spending into the billions of dollars by 1995.

We've still got 53,000 tenants waiting on lists and yet we have empty so-called non-profit apartments. Is it appropriate that we should be spending money on so-called non-profit apartments to house the likes of the Marilyn Churleys and the Jack Laytons of this world? These are people who are getting huge incomes. I will say that both of them have now given up, under great public pressure, this public trough. But we see Mr Layton has moved on to a \$300-a-day trough; he can afford to give it up.

I took the trouble before I stood up today to look at some of the news releases that have been issued by the Ministry of Housing with respect to non-profit housing. I have here an announcement dated April 30 of this year where they were going to build 11 apartment units at 570

Coxwell Avenue. The total capital cost was \$1.3 million. To put that into perspective as to what that costs per unit, that's \$118,181 per unit. The operating subsidy is to be \$23,094 per year. That is \$1,924 per month per unit. That is \$772 more than the government's own study which it commissioned from Royal LePage dated April 22, 1991, and I would like to quote, "Market rent in the Metro area in new buildings"—I'm ignoring the average; I'm saying the highest, the new buildings—"was \$1,152." But we are spending \$772 more per unit. This is money that could help single mothers who can't afford the rent they're paying in rental housing. This is what we're doing.

I turn to the next example. We have another unit which was announced on March 13 of this year for 14 units. The cost of this is \$1.7 million. That's \$121,000 per unit. The operating subsidy is \$17,791 a year, which is \$1,483 a month. This money is money that is just going out the window. Instead of us spending what the actual average rental is in Toronto, \$704 per unit, based on an 800-square-foot unit, we are spending, because the socialists have their hand in the till, \$1,483 per unit.

Next one: Here's a lovely one. An advocacy group which belongs to the Canadian Auto Workers is receiving \$50,000 to advocate for non-profit housing. These are the highest-paid manual workers in the province. These are people who are now taxed by the government's own super-tax. They are in the upper income levels. Yet these are the people they find necessary to give subsidies to to advocate so-called non-profit housing.

Now we have January 30, 12 apartments and 13 residential beds for single people. The capital cost is \$2.6 million. If I assume the residential beds are the full unit, which they're not, it's still \$104,000 per unit, which is \$1,110 per month. Give me a break. If you open the newspaper any day of the week you can see rental apartments for \$700 or \$800. You are not living in the real world, and where you're getting this money from is the taxpayers, who can ill afford it, and you're not giving it to the people who do need it, and that is the single mothers and the people who are struggling, the working poor. Instead, you'd sooner give it to your union buddies.

On October 25 of last year we had 443 apartments announced in North York. This in fact is in my own riding. A bunch of union people got together on a project that was not going to be built by the private sector, because they've killed the private sector. They're spending \$146,953 per unit and they're going to give as a subsidy \$1,486.

Now let me talk about the subsidy, because this is the significance of it. That is the subsidy; that is not the amount of money that ignores any rent people are supposed to pay, and these units are supposed to include so-called market rents. If you add in one penny of rent that is paid by the tenants, you have to say that the cost of operating these units is even higher. Why are taxpayers paying for these boondoggles? Why on earth would we build rental units?

I've heard an absolutely half-baked answer and I've seen half-baked answers from the Minister of Housing suggesting, "We're investing in the future." Let me tell you, Minister of Housing—through you, Mr Speaker, of

course—you don't know what you're talking about when you suggest that the public sector is going to go out and build something at a significantly higher cost than the private sector can build it and then you say, "We're investing in the future." You're wasting the taxpayers' money. You don't know what you're doing. You should resign now, because this is money that is inappropriately spent. This is the reason you have a record level of deficit.

1750

**The Acting Speaker:** First, I would like the honourable member to address the Speaker. There are some provocative messages being sent and indeed it would be much better if you'd address the Speaker. I know the time allocation is running short.

**Mr Turnbull:** I'll turn to the last example I'm giving, which is November 27, 1990. This is 79 homes to be built at a cost of \$11,800,000. That's \$149,367.00. The operating subsidy—I'm not talking about what the total cost is; I'm talking about the subsidy per unit—is \$1,975.

**Mr Noel Duignan (Halton North):** What about the Reichmanns?

**Mr Turnbull:** I have somebody asking, "What about the Reichmanns?" Yes, what about the Reichmanns? This is an attack on the working poor and the middle class. It isn't an attack on the Reichmanns. They have their tax shelters. You keep on telling us about that. But in fact this is how we attack the middle class and the working poor, the people we disadvantage by this kind of legislation. We're finding the pigs at the trough, and they're so deep in the trough they need a snorkel to breathe, because this is wasting taxpayers' money.

How can you justify spending \$1,956 a month in subsidy? Most of the people watching this probably pay half of that, or only a little more than half of that, in their rent, in a rental housing unit, yet we are spending this on the so-called non-profit housing. If this is non-profit, I'd hate to think what you would do if you were building anything for profit. The government doesn't understand the word "profit," because it will kill anything to do with profit.

This is what happened in Britain. This is what happened in all the countries of Europe that saw socialism creeping in and destroying their economies. It's wonderful to see Europe shaking off the shackles of socialism, because socialists spend money like this. They spend money on \$300-a-day consultants like Jack Layton. This is what the government understands. It doesn't understand prudent fiscal management, the kind of prudent fiscal management the Conservatives gave.

Interjections.

**Mr Turnbull:** It's interesting to hear the level of shouting and catcalls that come from them.

I'll tell you one thing: The level of your deficit today is two fifths of the total budget when the Tories went out of government. We were prudent fiscal managers. Even the NDP members in my riding have to admit that in those days we had a very good government that knew how to manage the economy. This is not an example of how to manage the economy: spending close to \$2,000 in subsidy

per unit, even including subsidizing units for the likes of Jack Layton who earns well over \$100,000 a year.

This is what the government understands as management. You are in outer space if this is what you call management. The trouble is, you have never had to meet a payroll in your life. You don't understand this is where you're wasting money. If Floyd wonders how he is going to get his money, he just has to stop this kind of abuse.

**The Acting Speaker:** This completes the time for the Progressive Conservative Party. The official opposition now, the honourable member for Mississauga West.

**Mr Mahoney:** The minister is welcome to stay on this side of the House. I'd be delighted to have you here.

That seemed like one small step for Mr Turnbull and a giant leap somewhere for an argument that I kind of lost. He called you everything but communist, you have to admit. He left the McCarthyism side of things out of it.

**Mr Donald Abel (Wentworth North):** One giant step to the Reform Party.

**Mr Mahoney:** It might've been that, actually.

One of the things I find quite interesting about the argument that deals with non-profit housing is that I was on the board of Peel Non-Profit Housing for almost 10 years and was president of the board for the last year I was on council. What the Conservative Party fails to understand is that if it were not for the non-profit program over the past 10 or 12 years, the private sector would've lost out on an awful lot of good opportunities for building good, quality homes in the community. I've long been a supporter of that method and of co-ops and of delivering good affordable housing.

**Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation):** Flip-flop.

**Mr Mahoney:** Take the rest of the day off, Mr Minister of Transportation; nice to see you come and nice to see you go.

I've long been a supporter of that particular method of delivering housing. What concerns me, though, is that this bill and this government have created an equal polarization on the other side of the issue to the extent that really they seem to create the atmosphere that all landlords are bad people. That atmosphere was put forward in committee.

Interjection.

**Mr Mahoney:** George, it was. There were some very acrimonious debates that took place in Kingston, in Sudbury and London where the whole attitude of this government was that if you're a landlord (a) you're rich and (b) you don't care about your tenants.

**Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview):** Why are you saying that?

**Mr Mahoney:** Well, that's exactly the atmosphere they created. Mr Speaker, you and I know that simply is not true. The vast majority of landlords, I might add, particularly when you get outside Metropolitan Toronto, are small entrepreneurs who perhaps saved over the years to put together enough money to simply buy a three- or four-apartment unit. They do the repairs on their own. If they're unable to do that in some instances—particularly in Sudbury, I recall a lady coming before us from one of the communities outside of Sudbury telling the story of how they had planned to buy this particular apartment building as their retirement nest egg only to find out that under NDP rent control the value of their building was being destroyed. You don't just destroy the value of a piece of property.

Shake your head all you want, Minister. I find it interesting that a minister carrying a bill needs to chirp in the House at members of the opposition putting forward very legitimate concerns of members of the public. Perhaps you don't want to listen to those particular people in the public, but that's our job as opposition. You should know that as well as any.

They destroy the value of the property. Unfortunately, coming close to 6 of the clock this evening, I won't have the opportunity to go into this, but I'll be delighted to pick up on it tomorrow. They destroy the value of that property with the end result being that they want to turn it into some form of government-assisted housing. What you're not doing and could be doing, if you truly wanted to provide new housing units in the community, is start flowing the non-profit allocations out to the communities and the private sector. You're not doing that. You've just created a logjam. You reannounced things in Homes Now that were announced by our government. You've been in office over a year and a half and you're not flowing the money out to the community.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** Shame on you.

**Mr Mahoney:** Well, that's what they should be doing.

Mr Speaker, being 6 of the clock, I would adjourn this debate.

**The Acting Speaker:** The honourable member and his party will have the remaining time tomorrow.

It now being 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 of the clock.

The House adjourned at 1800.

## ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
27	954	1	46	Ms Wark-Martyn moved first reading of Bill 31, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act and to provide an Income Tax credit to

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Phillip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	
St. George-St. David Sarnia	Scott, Ian G.	L	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
	Huget, Bob	ND	
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	Speaker/Président opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest Sudbury	Wilson, Jim	PC	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
	Murdock, Sharon	ND	
Sudbury East/-Est	<b>Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	<b>Cooke, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	
York South/-Sud	<b>Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

**COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE**

**STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS**

**Administration of justice/Administration de la justice**

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow  
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli,  
Mike Cooper Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney,  
Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman,  
Paul Wessinger, David Winninger  
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

**Estimates/Budgets des dépenses**

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson  
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## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Tuesday 2 June 1992

# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Mardi 2 juin 1992

Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday 2 June 1992

The House met at 1332.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### SCOTT GOODYEAR

**Mr Charles Beer (York North):** It gives me great pleasure to rise today to congratulate Mr Scott Goodyear, a native of Newmarket, on his outstanding performance at the Indy 500 on May 24. Scott came in a very close second, only  $\frac{43}{1,000}$  of a second behind the winner, Al Unser Jr, making it the closest finish ever in the 76-year history of the race.

Scott's performance was remarkable not only because of his superb driving skills, but because he began the race at the very back of the pack. He came from behind, and with the support of an excellent pit crew was able to weave his way to within six feet of winning.

Scott can also take pride in having had the best finish ever for a Canadian. At a rally in Nathan Phillips Square, Scott proclaimed that he is proud to be a Canadian and he hoped to be able to raise the awareness of other Canadian drivers. "All these drivers have the talent," he said, "they just need the opportunity."

Scott's next stop in the Indy car circuit is Detroit, Michigan, on June 7, where he will be facing a brand-new course. Canadians can welcome Scott home in July for the Molson Indy here in Toronto.

Congratulations once again to Scott and his family and best wishes for the duration of the Indy car circuit.

### MINING INDUSTRY

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to an industry that generates approximately \$7 billion worth of mineral wealth annually in this province. The financial contribution of the mining industry has a positive impact on the communities in which mining operates and a highly significant bearing on the entire provincial economy. This industry's financial contribution is certainly a source of pride and achievement as we mark Ontario Mining Week in this province.

Unfortunately, the profitability of the mining industry has been seriously eroded by Ontario Hydro costs, which are rising at an alarming rate, and the Workers' Compensation Board and other provincial government mandated costs that are escalating to levels totally unrelated to the improvements in industry performance. The industry is struggling to offset these negative provincial government factors as well as the new labour relations proposals, the new environmental bill of rights, employment equity, proposals to compensate workers for stress, and ongoing environmental municipal-industrial strategy for abatement and clean air program regulations pertaining to the quality of water and air emissions.

The provincial government must stop chipping away at mining's profitability with non-productive and uneconomical

cal legislation. The profitability and competitiveness of mining must be enhanced if the industry is to continue with this positive contribution to the society and economy of Ontario.

### ALEXANDRA PARK GYMNASTIC TEAM

**Mr Rosario Marchese (Fort York):** Alexandra Park is an Ontario housing community of more than 2,000 residents in my riding of Fort York. The community and I have worked together to face many problems, but today I am pleased to report a success story.

In an effort led by community resident and Canadian Olympic gymnast Lillian Chausse, Alexandra Park had its first gymnastic team this year. The team swept the medal winnings at the Metropolitan Toronto competitions, bringing home 188 awards and the team gold.

With these beginnings, the team seems assured of a bright future. Next year the team will be expanded to include young men.

I would like to recognize the motivation and commitment of the 45 young women, aged five to 17, who worked together to achieve this victory for themselves and their community. Congratulations to the Alexandra Park gymnastic team.

### SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

**Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West):** I am quoting from "Verdict of Coroner's Jury":

"We, the undersigned, the jury serving on the inquest into the death of Maciek Jaitoszuk, aged seven, held at 161 Elgin Street, Ottawa, on the 6th day of April 1992 by Dr William Westwick, have inquired and determined the following: cause of death—massive head injuries—accidentally as a result of being struck and run over by his school bus, from which he had just disembarked."

To protect the lives of innocent children, members of this Legislature should exercise their responsibilities quickly and decisively to ensure zero tolerance for school bus fatalities. The Minister of Education must act now to implement the coroner's recommendations. To this end, I will be introducing a bill today to implement a major recommendation of the inquest. These amendments to the Education Act and the Highway Traffic Act require school boards to appoint a monitor, other than the driver, for each bus used to transport its elementary school students and prohibit transportation of children on school buses unless a school bus monitor is present on the bus. The act establishes safety requirements for monitors to direct children in getting on and off the bus safely and in safely crossing the road.

Mr Minister, on behalf of all parents, please take this bill seriously.

1340

## AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** Today is the 51st anniversary of the death of Lou Gehrig. The same man who said, "I am the luckiest man in the world," when he retired from the New York Yankees in 1939, died of the disease known as ALS. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, more commonly referred to as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease, is as common as multiple sclerosis.

ALS is a fatal neuromuscular disease that strikes one in every 1,000 Canadian adults. The average life expectancy of a person with ALS is two and a half years. At present there is no known cure or cause for ALS, although new evidence published last week may bring us closer to discovering the cause of ALS and perhaps even a cure.

For the past seven years the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society of Canada has sponsored the annual cornflower campaign to raise funds for medical research. To commemorate Lou Gehrig's disease, June 2 is the kickoff of the cornflower campaign. I would like to urge all Ontarians to donate to this very worthy cause. Volunteers from all across Ontario will be offering a symbolic cornflower in exchange for a donation to ALS.

ALS and the cornflower campaign hold a special meaning to me because my father died this past December of ALS. To watch an individual succumb to the effects of ALS is a painful and tragic way to see a loved one face his final days.

Cornflower Day this year will be this Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6. The money raised will be used for research into the cause and care of ALS, and to increase public awareness.

When you see the volunteers with the blue cornflowers, please give generously so that together we may eradicate this devastating disease.

## ITALIAN NATIONAL DAY

**Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview):** I rise today to take part in the celebration of Italian National Day. In a referendum on June 2, 1946, Italians chose to become a republic, ending the monarchy in Italy. In Italy this is a national holiday and the official celebration is held in Rome. The parades and air shows are televised throughout the country. Here in Canada celebrations are also held, usually the first Sunday in June, and there are many events in which Canadian Italians participate.

There are more than 460,000 people of Italian heritage living in Ontario. They have made a significant contribution to the social, economic and cultural life of this province. The love of art, music, education and architecture which Italians brought with them has enriched each community in which they have chosen to live.

Many Italians have helped to build the homes and infrastructure we all now enjoy. [Remarks in Italian] The new generation is entering into all areas of community life, including the political structures. I join in celebrating Italian National Day with pride and in recognition of all who have made a contribution to our heritage.

**Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale):** I rise for the purpose of recognizing an important event that took place on this day 46 years ago, June 2, 1946, the establishment of the democratic republic of Italy. June 2 is of great historic significance and sentimental value to our citizens of Italian heritage and to the people of Italy, not only a country of monumental buildings, famous explorers and noted scientists, but also a trusted friend and ally, loyal trading partner and committed supporter of democratic and civil rights around the world.

We recognize the important contributions Italo-Canadians have made to the cultural and economic development of Ontario and indeed of Canada. Our province has become enriched because our Italian friends, on coming here, brought with them the love of music, art, architecture and education.

More than that, they have strengthened the pillars of our multicultural society by adding their traditional respect for hard work and family life. We have therefore benefited greatly from their participation in sports, business, professional life and, more recently, government and law.

To all our citizens who celebrate this very important anniversary, we say [remarks in Italian].

## PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** Apartment buildings are presently assessed as commercial property. A study by a subcommittee of Metropolitan Toronto city council showed that apartment buildings pay up to four times the property tax per square foot on floor space that single-occupancy dwellings do, 25% of average rent goes to property taxes and property taxes on apartments would need to be cut by as much as 60% to bring them in line with homes.

Tenant constituents rightfully complain that it is unfair that they pay higher property taxes than home owners, condo owners and co-op residents while at the same time receiving fewer services. I agree. It is not right. So far this government has shown no interest in correcting this situation, presumably because the government is the beneficiary.

I wish to quote some of the newsletter of the Federation of North York Tenants Associations:

"The cause of this unfair assessment classification is the insistence by the NDP government to retain an unfair assessment classification that prevents equalization between apartment units, condo units and single-family dwellings. This unfair assessment basis means higher rents for tenants. If this government is truly concerned with high rents, then let them remove this inequity in property taxes."

## COURTICE CARNIVAL

**Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East):** Courtice is the fastest-growing community in my riding. Hundreds upon hundreds of people are moving there from the Toronto area. In fact, one of my constituents from Courtice is employed in this chamber and no doubt monitors my performance with a very critical eye on a daily basis.

Courtice is also served by a very fine local newspaper, the Courtice News, which is read by hundreds of my constituents.

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** Thousands.

**Mr Mills:** Thousands; I beg your pardon. My statement is about this year's Courtice Carnival being held this coming Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm at Courtice Secondary School. The event offers something for the entire family. There's a flea market, shows by a children's performer, and one of my favourites will be a live country and bluegrass band. The children will be able to enjoy the inflatable bouncing castle as well as midway games. Finally, the Re/Max hot air balloon will be onsite and they won't need any hot air from me.

The proceeds of this event all go to the Courtice community building fund, an example of what people can do when they get together to do something for their community. Please join us on Saturday for this wonderful, upbeat, happy day. Saturday, Courtice.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

##### ONTARIO JUDICIAL COUNCIL

**Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General):** Ontario residents enjoy one of the world's best justice systems. This is due, in no small part, to the competence and dedication of its judges and to the strong public interest in the administration of justice. However, both provincially appointed judges and members of the public have some concerns about the process by which complaints about judges are considered.

The Ontario Judicial Council, a very important justice institution although perhaps one of the least known, is responsible for investigating complaints against provincially appointed judges, masters and Small Claims Court judges. The council is a body composed of judges, laypersons and a lawyer.

In 1991 the provincial judges submitted a report to the government expressing concerns related to the composition of the Ontario Judicial Council and the fairness of its procedures in investigating and hearing complaints against the provincial judiciary.

Further, some members of the public have expressed concern about comments made by individual judges and have questioned whether the judiciary, as a whole, has the experience or the training to deal sensitively with cases involving women or minority groups. The public must have confidence in the complaints process, and I have sympathy for those who find the existing process remote and intimidating.

Fundamental to any consideration of the complaints and discipline process is the principle of judicial independence. Judges must be free from improper pressures from government and members of the public that would jeopardize their impartiality. The government can, however, provide appropriate powers and structures to facilitate the exercise of their responsibilities.

The government is reviewing the composition, powers and procedures of the judicial council for the purpose of identifying whether it needs to be fairer, more effective

and more accessible in responding to complaints against judges.

Fundamental to this review are the views of judges, the general public and of those groups who have expressed specific concerns about the complaints process. I am therefore announcing today the release of a discussion paper which canvasses a number of options for changes to the composition, powers and procedures of the judicial council.

1350

This paper presents no preferred course of action. The options outlined are intended to assist the discussion and do not exclude other possible options. The government will not take a position on the issues until it has heard the views of all those interested in participating in the consultation.

The senior judges of the province, judges' representatives and the lay and lawyer members of the judicial council have already been consulted in a preliminary way about the issues outlined in the paper, and their views have been of considerable assistance to us in setting out those issues. I look forward to further consultation with them and to consultation with all other interested groups and individuals in our review of this important justice institution.

All of these views will be given careful consideration, but I think it is fair to indicate that from my perspective the complaints process must ensure that judges are held accountable, and are seen to be held accountable, for their conduct as judges and for their comments. I believe the process must be more accessible and should involve more lay members in order that the public understand the process and have confidence in its fairness and effectiveness. I trust that my frankness in sharing these thoughts will encourage a full and open discussion of the issues.

Both the process of public discussion about the judicial council and the identification of needed reforms will serve to further public confidence in and understanding of the justice system in Ontario. The justice system is strengthened by enhanced public confidence and understanding, and this initiative is just one of a number which we have undertaken to that end.

#### RESPONSES

##### ONTARIO JUDICIAL COUNCIL

**Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West):** First of all, there are a number of comments the minister stated today with which we agree, and I just want to reiterate those statements with which we agree. I'm quoting from his press release.

"I believe that the complaints process must ensure that judges are properly accountable, and are seen to be accountable, for their conduct as judges and for their comments."

Another statement says, "Both provincially appointed judges and members of the public have stated concerns about the process by which complaints about judges are considered." We agree with that.

A further comment states, "Some members of the public consider the complaints process remote and intimidating." Very true.

In addition, he says: "I believe that the process must be more accessible and should involve more lay members, in order that the public understand and have confidence in its fairness and effectiveness. The complaints process must be seen to be fair, effective and open."

These are statements this minister made when he was opposition critic. He's been there now for close to 20 months and he still has not done anything.

Last week, in a response to a statement, I raised some concerns about the Ontario Judicial Council and one particular mediation of that council, and the minister did not respond whatsoever to my concerns at that point. Our leader asked a question in the House, and the question was answered basically by the statement that was made today. Again yesterday our leader raised a question about sexual harassment in the courthouse in Belleville with respect to a judge, and again, the Premier, who was here, in the absence of the Attorney General, indicated that he would ask the Attorney General to inquire into this particular issue.

What we have seen here today is a statement that this minister is going to consult. He has indicated all along that he has been consulting. He has stated what the problem was from the days he was in opposition, and he is again underlining the fact that he is the minister of inertia.

I want to direct a question to the Premier. The Premier sat here and undertook to our leader, the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs McLeod, that he was going to look into her questions about sexual harassment and the particular circumstances of the case that were raised, most explicitly in the Law Times last week and again this week, where new facts were brought out which indicate even the mediation agreement that was established by the judges has been breached.

The question is there and it remains: Will the Premier ensure that the Ministry of the Attorney General will have zero tolerance in sexual harassment, judges or no judges? This is a situation that must be dealt with. It is not the normal type of inquiry that should be dealt with under the composition of the judicial council as it presently exists.

I urge the Premier, I urge the Attorney General, and more particularly the minister responsible for women's issues, to conduct an inquiry, to make a special circumstance out of this case, where they will examine a grave injustice to a female employee of the Ministry of the Attorney General in the Belleville courthouse. We have raised this last week, we have raised it again this week, and although we know we need reform with the Ontario Judicial Council, there is a specific case of injustice which the minister and the Premier, by closing their eyes, are continuing to concur in unless they respond to the questions that are raised. The Premier knows that a mediation of the Ontario Judicial Council has been breached. We know there are a lot of questions that exist out there, and we are demanding at the present time that the specific circumstances of this case be examined by the Attorney General and we would ask the Premier to order the Attorney General to do something in that situation immediately.

We have seen earlier, last week, where even in the Ontario Human Rights Commission we have an independent report saying there is racism in the Ontario Human

Rights Commission. Now we have sexual harassment in the Ministry of the Attorney General. What is this government all about? They say one thing and they do another.

**Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South):** In the few minutes left, I would say that I hope that in researching this and in looking at a new approach to it the Attorney General and the government would take a different approach, putting people on there whom the judges can feel they'd be treated fairly by and who will not be so related to the present existing government that they'll consider they're sitting in a Star Chamber.

**Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale):** When a jury makes a decision the Attorney General doesn't like, he initiates a study into the jury system and he impugns the integrity of that jury. This statement is in that vein. Now we're going to have a study of the judicial council.

The public and judges "appear"—that's the word the Attorney General uses—"to have concerns." The one thing I'd like to ask the Attorney General is, do they have concerns or don't they have concerns? What does "appear to have concerns" mean? Surely if you're going to embark upon this you have something concrete to tell us, not that in some nice, fuzzy language they "appear to have concerns."

With respect to women's issues and minorities, the right approach should not be to take judges and try to train them. We should be making sure that we're appointing judges who are the proper people to be sitting in our courts. We should be appointing judges who have been distinguished lawyers in the province of Ontario, not appointed from other provinces, and who are sensitive to these issues, who we know will be sensitive to these issues and who we know are proper appointments.

The other thing I find very interesting in this statement is the reference by the Attorney General that, "Fundamental to any consideration of the complaints and discipline process is the principle of judicial independence." I can tell you that the Chief Justice of this province questions whether under this Attorney General there is any judicial independence.

This Attorney General and this government control the purse strings of the courts. They have created a huge court bureaucracy, and if anything subjects the courts and the independence of the courts to criticism, if anything affects that independence, it's the fact that the Attorney General controls that court system—not the judges who run the courts, not the judges who have to make the decisions, but the Attorney General who allocates the money, who is the biggest litigator in this province.

I have some reservations, and I urge the Attorney General to read the remarks in The Advocates' Society Journal about what the Chief Justice of this province says.

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** It's amazing.

**Mr Harnick:** The Treasurer is saying to me, "Oh, it's amazing," I'm wrong, I'm wrong. I urge the Treasurer to take a look at what the Chief Justice of this province says and read the advocates' journal and you'll see what he says about judicial independence. Maybe you'll learn something.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I won't read that journal. Never.

**Mr Harnick:** Don't say, "Never, never." Maybe you'll learn something about whether there's judicial independence in this province.

The other thing is this issue of consultation. We again saw the kind of consultation this government believes in. They appoint people like Jack Layton to lead the right horses to the trough so they can get the answers they want when they go to prepare the legislation they're thinking of preparing. If you're going to embark on consultation, I think you should have consultation with integrity and honesty. Yesterday's announcement surely makes me question whether that's what's going to happen in this process.

1400

#### MINISTERIAL INFORMATION

**Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Yesterday a 15-month study funded by the Ontario women's directorate and the Ministry of Community and Social Services at a cost of \$100,000 was released. This was a very important report that revealed that at least three out of every five female murder victims in Ontario are killed by estranged husbands and boyfriends.

The minister responsible for women's issues did not table this very important report with this Legislature, nor have we had any indication that she intends to do so. I would ask the Speaker to make a ruling on this because I, as critic for women's issues for the official opposition, cannot do my job in this Legislature unless this important information is brought to our attention.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The member for Eglinton will know that there is nothing in the standing orders that compels ministers to make statements in the House with respect to government policy or any other items of importance. There has been a tradition of ministers presenting information in the House, but there is nothing in the standing orders that compels that.

In conclusion, I certainly very much appreciate the concern that the member expresses here today.

#### CORRECTION

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I rise to correct my record of yesterday. During debate on Bill 121, on page 1002 of Hansard, I used the term "landlord" when I intended the word "lawyer." I wish the record to reflect this.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The member indeed has a valid point of order. It's refreshing to know that members will rise to correct their own record.

#### MINISTERIAL INFORMATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: In standing order 31—I'm asking for your guidance and assistance in this matter. I know even today you've indicated that you cannot compel the minister to make any statement in this Legislature, no matter how important that statement is, and in fact, how it should be done. However, I'm wondering if you might be able to provide some guidance and assistance to me when the At-

torney General, without any statement, press release or consultation—and I have been so informed—will be increasing, through his ministry, expenses associated with the purchase of homes in this province by 190% at a time when all are in fact trying to encourage purchases. The Attorney General, I believe, without any statement, press release or whatever, is increasing the expenses associated with the purchase of homes. Can you provide any assistance to me as to how that type of information can be provided to members of this Legislature?

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** To the member for Mississauga North, I'm not sure of what assistance this will be, but the member may know that there is a budget debate and that there are expenditures that are tabled in the House. Often there's an opportunity to question those expenditures both in the House and in committees. He may wish to avail himself of those opportunities when they appear.

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

##### RETAIL STORE HOURS

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** My first question is for the Premier. For what seems to be an eternity, we've been calling on this government to withdraw its unworkable and unenforceable Sunday shopping laws. It appears, from what we hear and read, that the government may well be on the verge of doing just that. Unfortunately, it seems that at the same time as the government contemplates withdrawing its unworkable laws, it's thinking about introducing a whole new set of proposals to sort of cover its retreat from previous commitments.

I would ask the Premier whether or not he would confirm or deny the suggestion that, among other things, this government is considering requiring double pay for retail workers working on Sunday, which would certainly seem to be a move that would not assist the retail sector to compete and which would certainly also create a very different set of conditions for retail workers from all others who are currently working on Sundays.

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I'll have a full statement to make to the House on the issue of Sunday shopping tomorrow.

**Mrs McLeod:** That's also consistent with what we are hearing, which lends some substance to the other rumours and concerns we are hearing. I have a newspaper advertisement that was taken out recently by a Mr Sydney Brown, who is the general manager of Plasteel Furniture Products Ltd. It's a rather desperate advertisement in which Mr Brown is imploring this government to make a decision about the Sunday shopping law. He wants a decision that will give him a level playing field with other retail establishments.

Our concern is that as the government moves to make certain changes and introduces others, the new set of proposals for Sunday shopping will not create the kind of level playing field Mr Brown and others are looking for. It's quite possible, if our concerns have any basis in reality, that the proposals of the government could favour, for example, large retail establishments at the expense of smaller retailers.

We spoke today with Mr Brown, who took out this newspaper advertisement. Mr Brown is certainly concerned about any prospect of double pay being required for workers working on Sunday. He feels that would be like an extra tax on retailers.

I would ask the Premier what he intends to do to ensure that whatever proposals he announces tomorrow will not discriminate, for example, against smaller retail establishments.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I have no way of knowing whether Liberal concerns are based on reality or not. To this point, my experience has been that often they are not. All I can say to the honourable member is that rather than try to arouse a lot of various speculation with respect to what is going to be said tomorrow, I would urge the Leader of the Opposition, in her discussions with Mr Brown and others, to simply say that the Premier has indicated that there will be a full statement tomorrow. That remains the case.

**Mrs McLeod:** It's not surprising that the opposition has difficulty in knowing what reality is for the government when it lurches from one particular set of proposals and commitments to another one.

We're obviously concerned about the fact the government, in looking at Sunday shopping legislation, in responding to what has been literally a hue and cry across this province from people saying the legislation is unworkable, it is unenforceable, it needs to be withdrawn to ensure our retail sector can hope to be able to compete in this very difficult environment, reportedly is looking at another whole set of proposals.

We wonder whether there has been any consultation with people in that same retail sector, who are going to be affected by the proposals, about what these new proposals will mean to them. We wonder, for example, if you're considering implementing the requirement of double pay for Sunday work for retail workers, whether you've looked at the impact of that on the retailers who are now able to be open on Sunday, such as the corner stores or the drug-stores. Those are establishments that could well be expected to lose jobs if you bring in a set of proposals that will make it impossible to compete.

So in advance of this government bringing in its proposals, we want to know whether or not this government is looking seriously at its purpose in withdrawing the Sunday shopping legislation, which is to make it possible to compete, to keep jobs open. We want to know whether the government has looked at what the potential job loss might be of any new proposals it might bring in and whether or not it is prepared to consult with the retail sector about any proposals that go beyond simply withdrawing the existing legislation.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I always listen with great interest to what the honourable member has to say. I would only say her arguments today seem based entirely on speculation in the press. I would say to her that my experience teaches me that's not always the best basis upon which to ask questions.

**Mrs McLeod:** That gives us some reassurance that what is being speculated in the press right now will not be shown to be reality for this government when the statement is made tomorrow.

1410

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** I address my second question to the Premier as well on a quite different subject. Yesterday this city saw once again elements of truancy, disorder and hooliganism from certain groups of young people. There's no question these outbursts of violence are creating a tremendous concern about public safety, but I think the Premier would agree that there are other elements in what we saw yesterday: the reality of youth alienation, youth frustration and almost desperation, because it's very difficult for young people today to feel some sense of optimism about their future. I would ask the Premier if he can tell us how his government intends to respond to last night's events.

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** There are two things we've done and I've indicated already to the House what they are. I've asked my newly appointed parliamentary assistant to make a report to me and to the cabinet with respect to the issue of youth employment. It's my understanding this report will be made to the cabinet this week and action will follow with respect to employment programs.

I would also indicate that we've had extensive discussions with the private sector in this regard and I'm pleased to indicate to the member that the response from the private sector has been extremely positive. I think there's a broad sentiment in the community that we have to work together to deal with this question, and it has a broad basis of support among municipalities and employers. We need to respond together and we will respond together.

I've also asked Mr Lewis to give me a report with respect to the broader issues of race relations in the province. He is going to be making a report to me at the beginning of next week and I look forward to receiving that as well. Both of them are action-oriented documents, action-oriented proposals, and will in fact produce some positive and clear results.

I would say to the honourable member that if she has some suggestions to make with respect to changes in public policy or areas in which we can assist youth, I would be very glad to hear what they are.

**Mrs McLeod:** It's important to me to impress upon the Premier just how tremendously urgent this situation has already become. We on this side of the House have been trying to raise, constantly and consistently, the realities for young people who are facing a summer now without prospects of employment. I regret to say I believe we're already seeing the result of policies from a government that has made no priority for youth at all. Youth were not mentioned in either the first throne speech or the second throne speech; youth were not mentioned in the budget; youth are not a focus for this government's training programs; they are not a focus for the Treasurer's job creation programs, and even education has been cut back. We recognize that it was in response to a crisis that the government did move to do a study on youth unemployment, but the crisis is already here.

Let me ask the Premier to repeat that assurance and tell us that we will see that report this week and that it will have recommendations for immediate action that will be implemented immediately, to begin to resolve what is an absolutely urgent situation.

**Hon Mr Rae:** In listening to the cynical asides from her colleague the member for Huron instead of to my answer, perhaps the leader did not hear what I had to say. What I had to say very clearly to the Leader of the Opposition is that there will be a report to cabinet tomorrow by my parliamentary assistant with respect to the issue, which I asked her to address as soon as possible. She has had extensive consultations with private sector employers and others, and there will be a practical suggestion before us which will require an action decision by us and to which we will respond.

I want to assure the honourable member that within the realities we face in terms of overall fiscal policy, which I'm sure in her fairest of fair moments she would accept and understand, this government is responding on the training side, we're responding on the employment side and we are responding as effectively as we can to the issues that are in front of us. To assert, if I may say so, as was clearly implied, that what took place on Toronto Island is somehow the direct fault of this government is something she might want to reflect on in her fairer moments with respect to the realities of public policy and of what is going on in the province today.

**Mrs McLeod:** If the Premier indicates that he listens very closely to the questions that are being asked and asks the same in return for his answers, I would ask that he reflect on what I was raising in my second question. That was the fact that all the programs this government identifies, whether it's training programs or job creation programs, have not been directed to youth and will not help with the very urgent problem of youth not having jobs this summer.

In a very specific way, coming back to the questions we have been consistently raising in this House, I want to remind the Premier of his own words during the last recession when, incidentally, we had lower rates of youth unemployment than are projected for this summer. The Premier said:

"To add insult to injury, the Treasurer has decided that summer Experience '83, the summer jobs program for students, will receive exactly the same amount of money as in 1982, but the number of jobs to be created will actually drop by 300."

According to our research, this government will certainly not be increasing the amount of money for the summer Experience program, but in fact as we look at the summer job opportunities created by this government, there will be a drop of something in the order of 2,000, even when we don't add in some of the jobs that are lost through cutbacks in things like tree planting programs.

The Premier has a clear route to take some very specific action, and that is to redirect his funding priorities. I would ask the Premier whether he is prepared to take the action this week of redirecting his funding priorities to direct further

funding to create jobs for youth over the course of this summer.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I think, to be fair, and again I'd say this to the honourable member, you've got to look at a range of programs. You can't just pick out one program. You've got to look at an entire range of programs, and when you look at that range of programs, you'll see that the government has continued to fund youth employment programs and we are continuing to look at a range of programs which provide for young people. But I would say to the honourable member, I've asked my parliamentary assistant to look directly at the issues, to look directly at the question of the focus of programs and to deal extensively with the private sector and with municipalities in responding. We will respond and we will respond in a way that I hope will have the support of the honourable member.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** My question is to the Minister of Labour in charge of the Workers' Compensation Board. This morning, Minister, the Employers' Council on Workers' Compensation released a study on the financial crisis at the WCB. The study concluded that the WCB has "squandered \$660 million since last year and is sinking further into debt at the rate of \$100 million per month." Minister, how much more money do you intend to pump into this sinkhole before you do something to control spending at the WCB?

**Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour):** I think the leader of the third party should be aware that the question of funding and the unfunded liability is one of the issues the board is trying to deal with right now. They are talking to the stakeholders and are putting together questions and those will be before the House when they're finalized.

**Mr Harris:** You keep talking about funding. You always want to get more money. You always want to raise taxes. You want new fees, new payroll taxes. Not only do Ontario employers today have the highest rate of assessment in the entire country of Canada, but Ontario's WCB, in addition to this, has a debt of \$10.3 billion. The study released this morning concluded that the crisis "has been triggered by an unprecedented spending spree creating an expenditure crisis, not a funding problem." Despite this, Mr Minister, the WCB is currently looking at allowing compensation for occupational stress that would cost up to an additional \$200 million per year.

Minister, will you immediately place a moratorium on new compensable policies until we figure out how to properly fund and manage those compensable items that are already covered by the WCB?

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** I'm sure the member realizes that it's not our role to run or make the decisions of the board. I want to tell him that the government is closely monitoring the efforts of the board, along with its stakeholders, in finding solutions to its financial situation. I understand the board of directors will soon be considering a consultation report based on the submissions of the stakeholders, and we will take a look at it at that time.

**Mr Harris:** Mr Minister, yesterday you announced the new asbestos policy for the WCB right in this House. We have heard ample evidence that the WCB cannot control its own spending. What's worse, it won't even reveal where the money is going. They refuse to release their internal audits to the employers' council. They're the ones who are funding WCB and have this liability facing them. They are thumbing their noses at the request to bring in the Provincial Auditor.

Minister, will you direct the WCB, as is your role as minister responsible, on behalf of Ontario workers who are losing jobs because employers can't afford to continue to fund them, to stop playing peekaboo with the employers' money? Will you either have the internal audits of the WCB released to the employers' council or direct the Provincial Auditor to get in and clean up this mess?

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** I want to say that officials from my ministry will be meeting shortly with members of the employers' council to discuss their serious considerations. But in the meantime, I want to say we're not taking over the operation of the board in spite of the arguments of the leader of the third party.

1420

#### APPOINTMENTS PROCESS

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** My second question is to the Premier. Premier, there is a very dangerous precedent and pattern emerging—I would suggest to you pattern—that concerns many of us and indeed many members of the very professional civil service and crown agency employees across the province. That is the appointing of NDP former members, NDP loyalists, not to political jobs, I want to be clear—I'm not talking about the appointment of Michael Cassidy to Ontario Hydro, as inappropriate as I thought that was. I understand political appointments to agencies, boards, commissions. I understand you want them to be sympathetic and understanding of your philosophy. I understand that. I'm talking about the civil service.

Premier, the question is directed to you because this pattern is emerging. We've seen it just recently with Martin and we saw it again yesterday with Mr Layton. I would like to ask you about another one that has been brought to my attention, that is, the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission. Mr Karl Morin-Strom, former NDP member, was hired last year as a corporate planner.

To the best of my knowledge there was no competition for this extended civil service position. No one else was interviewed, I am told, for this position. According to the information I've been able to obtain, the provincial crown corporation was ordered to create a position for Mr Morin-Strom.

Premier, I'm asking you, did you or anyone in your office order the ONTC to create a position for the former NDP member for Sault Ste Marie?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I'm glad to answer that question very directly. The answer is no, of course not. In a sense I'm glad the honourable member raised the issue. In my

time as Premier I have met many people in the public service. Some of them were on ministerial staffs in the Liberal Party, some of them were on ministerial staffs in the Conservative Party and some of them are assistant deputy ministers and hold high rank in the public service today.

If you want to do this and say this is the approach you're now going to take, I suggest to you it's a path that is not of any benefit to anyone, and certainly not of any benefit to the Conservative Party with respect to the practices it followed when it was in office. We have established as clearly and as carefully as we can a policy of ensuring merit and competence in terms of public appointments. In terms of appointments that are made under order in council, we've opened up the process in a way that is wider and fairer than ever before in the history of the province.

With respect to public service appointments, they are made by the public service and by others in response to the needs of their own organizations. That's the way it has been and that's the way it is with respect to the Ontario public service, in which this government, together with all governments, has always had the greatest and highest of confidence.

**Mr Harris:** I don't think we need a lecture on patronage from the Premier. The Premier has proven beyond all doubt that he is very capable of understanding the importance of having people who understand the philosophy and policies being appointed to those positions to carry them out, as do I, and I am not critical of that.

But, Premier, we are talking about a civil service position. Surely you would understand that civil servants and crown agencies have an expectation that a position will be advertised, that there will be a non-partisan method for filling those positions and that in the case of Mr Morin-Strom and the ONTC, the perception is clearly there to all of those involved with the ONTC—the board members, management, but more important, as I am hearing, the employees of the ONTC—that you have sent in a partisan loyalist to keep a political watch on the activities of this crown corporation.

**Hon Mr Rae:** Dr Morin-Strom, who is a mathematics prizewinner from his high school in Sault Ste Marie, a graduate of Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has his MA and doctorate, served as a member of this House for a time. Before he served as a member of this House he was a corporate planner in the private sector, as the member will well know, and was an employee of Algoma Steel.

If the member has an accusation to make against an individual, I regret that. But to suggest, for example, that Dr Morin-Strom, apart from the fact that he ran as a New Democratic Party candidate, is somehow not qualified to serve as a member of the public service or as a member of a corporation is a comment, I would say to the honourable member, that is entirely unworthy of the leader of the Conservative Party of this province.

If he wants to go down the list of the people in the public service who came into the public service from ministers' offices under Bill Davis's regime or Frank

Miller's regime or who came out of riding associations or anywhere else and are now senior members of the public service, I say to the leader of the third party, I really think he's got to reflect a bit on exactly what he's saying. Is he saying Dr Morin-Strom is not qualified to serve—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Could the Premier conclude his response, please.

**Hon Mr Rae:**—anywhere in the Ontario public service or the federal public service simply because he served as a member of this House for a couple of years? Put it in some perspective, I would ask the honourable member.

**Mr Harris:** I understand when you're caught with your thumb in the pie that accusing others and misrepresenting what they are saying is the line of defence you've been told to practise. I am asking you to table one shred of evidence that the ONTC was looking for a corporate planner, that that position wasn't created for Mr Morin-Strom, that they weren't ordered to create a position and to hire him, that there was advertising for the position, that it was available to more than one person in this province, ie, available to someone other than Mr Morin-Strom. I'm asking you to table one shred of evidence to that effect.

By way of final supplementary, I am asking you this, Premier. When you campaigned—

Interjection.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Harris:**—you campaigned for whistle blowing in the civil service. In other words, you campaigned to give civil servants the right to speak, come forward and hold the government accountable. Instead what we are getting is the opposite. We are seeing the civil service politicized to the extent that, I tell you, it appears to many disillusioned civil servants and crown agency employees that you are simply appointing NDP hacks in there to spy and find out what's going on.

**Hon Mr Rae:** To hear from the party which governed this province for 42 long years that—

Interjections.

**Hon Mr Rae:**—to hear from them—

**The Speaker:** Order. Could the Premier take his seat for a moment, please.

1430

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Premier.

**Hon Mr Rae:** Anyone who has an inkling of the history of the last while with respect to the relationship between the government and the public service in this province would I think view the question coming from the leader of the third party as one which almost defies description. He knows full well that he can make all the personal attacks on any one single individual that he wants. He can do that, but I will say to the honourable member that any reasonable assessment of the actions of this government in comparison with the actions of any other would say that we have brought people into the public sector and the public service who would never have been considered by other governments. We have estab-

lished a broad-based policy with respect to appointments, and the people who have been appointed are qualified and of high calibre.

As he himself has said, the Tory party hardly needs to hear a lecture on patronage from the New Democratic Party. The Tory party wrote the book on patronage in the province of Ontario.

**The Speaker:** New question. The member for Halton Centre.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre):** My question is to the—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Wait a minute. Will the member just wait a minute.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** I ask the House to come to order. The member for Halton Centre.

JACK LAYTON

**Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre):** My question is to the Premier, to whom I say that it is relatively easy from time to time to be flip about patronage appointments, but I think he will understand, from reaction in this House yesterday and elsewhere through the province, that there is real concern and considerable unease about a bias and a distortion of the process through the hiring of Jack Layton, a highly political and partisan person, to stage-manage the process, to instruct people in how to appear and what things can be said and possibly even to determine who can appear in the public hearings relating to the Public Hospitals Act.

Premier, this is a matter of very widespread concern. I'm asking you if you will personally dispel those concerns and direct the Minister of Health to take Jack Layton off the job so that people will know that the process will be fair, will be balanced, and that your word is on the line in guaranteeing that.

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** The question relates to the political staff of the Ministry of Health. I'll ask the Minister of Health to answer the question.

**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health):** I guess I am concerned that the member opposite still has concerns. I think I gave her assurances on these very points yesterday, but let me go through it again.

Mr Layton has been hired on to a position in my political staff. I think it is appropriate for me to be able to hire people of New Democrat political persuasion to my political staff, as other ministers of other governments have done. I think that issue is very straightforward and the criticism that has been levelled at that is a partisan criticism, one that I understand coming from the opposition but that I don't think is warranted in the circumstances.

What I'll say to the member's concerns with respect to the process is that I'd like to make it clear that no member of my political staff will be overseeing or running

or determining the process with respect to the public hearings. The hearings that will be held this summer to gather response to the task force report recommendations, that will be held by the parliamentary assistant and members of this Legislature, will be assisted by having a member of my staff facilitate, encouraging people to participate.

I want her to be very well assured that we have been working with the hospital sector and that the Ontario Hospital Association, in holding forums and information sessions for its members, will ensure that the hospitals are out there. We will be listening to all people. We will not be censoring any points of view. We encourage people to come forward. We have not put forward a government position. We are waiting to hear the results of this first round of public consultation. That position will then be tabled in legislation.

**Mrs Sullivan:** I really regret that the Premier did not respond to that question. It was directed to him, and it is clear that he is not prepared to ensure the lack of bias and an even hand in those public hearings.

We have seen interviews recently where Mr Layton has said, "This is not a job; this is a contract." I want to suggest to you that the Minister of Health found time to appoint Jack Layton to that position, whereas the Ontario hospital appeals tribunal, which is statutorily required to sit as an expert administrative tribunal and must sit in order to guarantee the proper administration of the law regarding public hospitals in Ontario, could not sit since mid-May, until yesterday, because there was no quorum. We want to know why this government could find the time and the money to appoint Jack Layton to stage-manage a public process when it could not take the time to ensure that the proper and legally required functioning of our health care institutions went forward.

I'm asking the minister to respond in place of the Premier. Which comes first, the politics or the law and the protection of people?

**Hon Ms Lankin:** To the direct question at the end, of course the law and the protection of people. I want the member to be assured that as soon as it was brought to my attention with respect to the need for appointments and reappointments to the Hospital Appeal Board, those orders in council were signed directly by me and have gone through the process and we have resolved the situation that had occurred. I took very swift action on that, as I have in all situations of this nature.

The question was directly about politics or public interest, and that's what's being cast here. I ask the member to think carefully over the course of the number of months that I've been in this portfolio. I think I have a very clear record of having approached this portfolio in a very non-partisan way.

Let me give you some examples. I have appointed and reappointed very many Liberals as members of district health councils and other associations related to the Ministry of Health out there whom the members opposite appointed when they were in government. I looked at their records and where it was warranted I have reappointed them.

Let me also say that I have involved members of the opposition in announcements about initiatives in their ridings on a regular basis, and I have had many thank you's from members opposite about that.

Last, let me say that your party absolutely cannot say anything with respect to this. I have taken a look at the names of the political staff of the former Minister of Health, and they are all throughout the civil service within the Ministry of Health right now. Let me take it further, Mr Speaker, and say that on the computers in our offices—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the minister conclude her response, please.

**Hon Ms Lankin:** —we found campaign-related material from the Liberal Party. You have nothing to say on this issue whatsoever.

**The Speaker:** New question, the member for Mississauga South.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. The member for Mississauga South.

1440

#### RENT REGULATION

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** My question is for the Minister of Housing. Yesterday, a property owner announced that he is suing her government for the sum of \$20 million that he has lost due to the retroactivity of Bill 4 regarding phased-in rent increases for necessary repairs. Today, a former owner of a small building told the Queen's Park media that he had lost his life savings because of Bill 4's retroactivity. This morning, in an interview on CBC's Metro Morning with Joe Côté, this minister said, referring to the rent review backlog, that the cases will be dealt with under the old law rather than Bill 121 because she "can't introduce retroactive legislation."

My question is: If you now believe that you cannot introduce retroactive legislation, will you repeal the retroactive legislation in Bill 4?

**Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing):** When I referred in the interview this morning to the question of retroactive legislation, I was speaking of cases which came forward under Bill 51, before Bill 4 came into effect, and which have to be heard under the legislation that existed at that time. Bill 4 was not retroactive as it related to this government and its undertakings. Bill 4 was brought into effect and it affected cases that began in October 1990. There was nothing retroactive about Bill 4.

**Mrs Marland:** I'm sorely tempted to use an unparliamentary word to describe this minister's two-faced response to the people who have lost thousands and millions of dollars in this province because of the retroactivity of Bill 4.

Now that Bill 121 is about to become law, the minister can reveal her socialist government's hidden agenda. As the Premier said when he was Leader of the Opposition: "You make it less profitable for people to own rental property. I would bring in a very rigid, tough rent system of rent review....There will be a huge squawk...and you say to them, 'If you're unhappy, we'll buy you out.'"

My question to this minister is, will you admit that your government is trying to force rental property owners out of business so that their properties can be purchased at fire-sale prices for government-funded non-profit housing?

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** This government has no hidden agenda. In fact, nothing this government does is hidden. Even things we'd like to chat to ourselves about end up on the front page of the newspaper.

We have made it very clear what our intention is in Bill 121. It is legislation which is designed to protect the right of tenants in Ontario to have only reasonable rent increases, and at the same time provide enough flexibility so that landlords who need additional moneys for particular kinds of repairs which are outside the regular maintenance needs of apartment buildings can apply for legitimate repair needs that affect the structure and soundness of a building, that affect the health and safety of the occupants, that allow access to the apartment building for people who have disabilities and also that provide for conservation of energy and water.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The Minister of Culture and Communications has a response to a question asked earlier.

#### TVONTARIO

**Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications):** With respect to the TVOntario award competition and the grand prize of \$50,000, I would like to provide further details.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** To which member?

**Hon Mrs Haslam:** To the member for Mississauga South in her question on Monday, May 25.

The TVOntario awards were established, as she has mentioned, in 1990. They are intended to be awarded every other year. The grand prize winner will receive \$50,000 and each of the six finalists will be receiving \$5,000. The awards ensure a stronger presence and an increased recognition for TVO in international markets. For TVO to sell its programming, it must be known and it must be associated with excellence and quality educational programming. The awards and the promotional activities associated with the awards contribute significantly to that kind of recognition for TVO product.

The main purpose of the awards is to support and promote TVO's commercial and business operations and is within its mandate.

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** I guess the minister is going to have to do a better job, because I don't know where in the TVO mandate it talks about selling its programming. My understanding of the mandate for TVO is that it's an educational service to the people of this province, the same people who are solicited for their public support through subscriptions and a funding of \$80 million of taxpayers' money.

Madam Minister, we do not support the use of this money to give prizes around the world in the same industry. It is not the mandate of TVOntario and I ask you again

to review a policy that allows \$80,000 of public money to be given in prizes.

**Hon Mrs Haslam:** It does support and promote the commercial and business operations and is consistent with TVO's mandate. TVO sells its programs to 80 countries worldwide. At a time when government sources of funding are constrained, it is especially important, I feel, that TVO make every effort to increase non-governmental revenue. That is what these awards will do. The awards represent a sound business investment and a strategic investment in Ontario's educational broadcasting.

A very important part of the awards is that each of the winning programs will be broadcast on TVO and on La Chaîne. TVO does not pay for the production cost of the program. For award-winning programs of this calibre, TVO normally pays \$5,000 to \$9,000, so this is an excellent return on TVO's investment.

#### SEWAGE AND WATER TREATMENT

**Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North):** My question is to the Minister of the Environment. It's apparent that part of the disentanglement discussions involve the transfer of water and sewer responsibilities to municipalities. In fact, some media reports go as far as saying this is something you have pretty much decided will take place. By doing this, Minister, it's my position and our position that you as Minister of the Environment are in fact abdicating your responsibility to provide a safe and clean supply of water to the people of Ontario.

In your response to my question yesterday you said, "the issue of the protection of the waters of the province...is certainly a concern." You went on to say further, "I...have been taking...definite action."

Indeed you have been taking action, Madam Minister. In this government's budget most recently released and read in this place, the grants to municipalities for water and sewer projects have been chopped by \$56 million. Why did you decrease the sewer and water allocations in this budget?

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment):** As I'm sure the member is aware, in the announcement of the budget the Treasurer talked about the whole issue of capital financing and how we can do capital financing in a much more strategic manner than has been done in the past. Many of my colleagues on this side, and I suspect my colleagues on the other side, have often come to ministers of the Environment or other ministers with requests for a better coordination and overall look at capital spending. That is precisely the kind of strategy and approach this government is following.

In response to the funding, I want to say to the member that he has to look at the funding on water and services from a range of ministers. I didn't have the figure at my fingertips yesterday. I'm very glad to be able to tell him that in 1990-91 the budget for water management activities by the ministries of Agriculture and Food, Environment, Municipal Affairs, Natural Resources and Northern Development was in excess of \$650 million. That is not a cutback in a commitment to water management in this province.

1450

**Mr McClelland:** The fact of the matter is, Minister, that is not specifically water and sewer. That is a range of programs. At the end of the day you are abdicating your responsibility as Minister of the Environment to deal with that fundamental issue.

I remind you of what you said in opposition. You will be well aware that in the 1990 budget the former government showed some leadership in creating the water and sewer corporation to address the need to expand and upgrade much of the existing infrastructure, which, as you know, is in critical condition. The reality is that municipalities and upper-tier governments across this province are not in a position to handle it adequately. You said at that time, Minister, "What we need is more capital to replace our infrastructure." We agree with that.

The recent budget promised more support for infrastructure renewal. The water and sewer main corporation was set up two years ago, and nothing has happened there. Given these facts, Minister, why don't you move ahead now with the water and sewer corporation? Do something with it and get your ministry back on track with the kind of funding municipalities and other programs in your ministry need.

**Hon Mrs Grier:** I don't know what the member thinks the sewer and water corporation as announced by Treasurer Nixon in his budget would have done, but certainly as the Minister of Municipal Affairs and I and the Treasurer have looked at the policy development work, the consultation, the development of a mandate and the authority that would've been given to that proposal, we have found absolutely nothing in the way of preparation, consultation or policy development done by that government with respect to the sewer and water corporation, so I'm surprised that the member sees it as a panacea to all of the problems of municipalities.

Municipalities have very real infrastructure problems. I know that. We all know that. But just setting up a corporation to deal with the development industry and to somehow facilitate urban sprawl across the agricultural land of this province, which was what was envisaged by the Treasurer of your government, is not the solution to the infrastructure problems of this province.

#### YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** My question is for the Minister of Education. Minister, we know the unemployment rate for youths aged 15 to 24 is 18.7%. Last week there were some discussions in the House with regard to the expectation that youth summer employment will be a significant challenge for all of us.

Yesterday we were made very much aware of some youth fighting and attacks at the Toronto Islands, and this morning we heard Detective Sergeant Stephen Duggan, from the Metropolitan Toronto Police, say that usually at this time of year these kinds of things can happen but his great concern and disappointment is that, with more youth unemployment, this could happen during the summer because they don't have the normal jobs they would be going to, right across Ontario, not just here in Toronto.

I have to say, Mr Minister, that last week the Premier said he will release a report that will deal with the issue of summer employment before the summer begins. School's out in two weeks. My question to the minister is, when are you going to release this report that can ensure that at least more students will have summer jobs?

**Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education):** I think the Premier indicated in an answer to a question earlier today that his parliamentary assistant, the member for St Andrew-St Patrick, is presenting a report to cabinet tomorrow on some of the work she has been doing and that we expect there will be some announcements that will come as a result of the work she has been doing very soon.

**Mrs Cunningham:** In spite of that response, across southwest Ontario throughout probably this past winter and certainly within the last 18 months, school boards have been working with teachers, administrators and the police to address the issue of violence in the schools and communities. In response to the increased violence in our schools, at least in our knowledge since you've been in government, probably in November 1991, your government stated that the safe school task force has been established and the community education and outreach branch has been established. They're supposed to be developing cooperative approaches to deal with this significant problem. I'm talking about violence in our communities stemming from schools.

This is an ongoing thing, and we now have the member for St Andrew-St Patrick coming forth with a report. Can you please advise this Legislature what these two groups have been doing? What is the status of these two groups, and will their reports and their ongoing studies and some of their successes be taken into consideration when we get the report on youth employment next week, I hope?

**Hon Mr Silipo:** I know some of those same issues have been looked at as part of the work that has been going on through the member for St Andrew-St Patrick. Clearly the issue the member raises is one to which there are no quick solutions, as I'm sure she will be the first to understand and agree, but I think the question of youth employment is one answer and I think we are indicating not only our support for that direction but in fact are suggesting that we will be able to do some concrete things in that.

The issue of the safe school task force and the other group that was mentioned is one we will continue to look at. I'd be happy to provide more details to the member opposite, and to any other member who wishes, of the work coming out of that.

We also are looking at a number of other things with respect to anti-racism—and I will have more to say about that in the House very shortly—because we think that all these things are obviously related and connected with respect to some of the problems we're seeing reflected in some of the activities some of our young people are involved in these days.

## POLLUTION CONTROL

**Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre):** My question is for the Minister of the Environment. Madam Minister, I understand that last Friday, May 29, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the three big auto makers—Chrysler, Ford and General Motors—the federal government and our own provincial government.

Madam Minister, the riding I represent is one of the areas where the largest numbers of automobiles in all of Canada are made—there and of course in the riding of my colleague the member for Oshawa. These are important issues for my area, Madam Minister, and I want to know about the program. Are we talking about a voluntary program preventing pollution, and why was this selected?

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment):** I'm glad to be able to tell the member and the other members of the House that the Big Three auto makers have voluntarily agreed to a pollution prevention program. There has been some concern—and the member has discussed it with me—as to what that means in terms of existing legislation and enforcement of that legislation. I'd like to make it very clear that the signing of this memorandum of understanding does not in any way alter the responsibilities of my ministry for enforcement of existing legislation, control orders or certificates of approval, nor does it alter the obligation or the commitment of the industry to abide by those laws.

But what the industry has done is go beyond existing legislation and voluntarily agree with both Environment Canada and ourselves to enter into a memorandum of understanding. This commits them to pollution prevention, to going back into their companies, to looking at the toxics they use, to looking at how they can reduce those. That is entirely consistent with the commitment of this government to pollution prevention. I think the industry deserves to be commended.

**Mr White:** I think that speaks to an essential issue. Many people in my area are concerned about the pollution, about the auto industry and its future, and I am wondering if the minister could speak further to the issue of why we are choosing to go a voluntary route rather than the mandatory route many people would say is more typical.

**Hon Mrs Grier:** The concept of pollution prevention is not a new one to environmentalists. I think it's new to governments and I think this government is the first to have made a commitment to build that into existing programs, such as the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement, toxics use reduction and a number of others.

What we are doing is encouraging stakeholders to take full responsibility for their actions and to reduce their use, generation and release of toxic substances. How to do that, the kind of monitoring involved in getting us to the point of knowing how much is emitted and how much has to be reduced is going to take a great deal of work. The automobile industry has agreed voluntarily to do some, I think, ground-breaking work on it that will be a very useful example for us to follow in discussing with other sectors and in learning more about how this kind of program will in fact work.

## LEGAL AID

**Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton):** My question is for the minister responsible for women's issues. According to numerous reports, the NDP government is on the verge of changing the legal aid system by setting up clinics and eliminating the freedom to choose one's own lawyer.

Over 70% of legal aid family law clients are women. Any decision affecting family law legal aid will impact mostly on women and their dependent children, a group which is often financially vulnerable, abused and powerless. In fact, just yesterday a report was released showing that women are killed in large numbers by their estranged male partners. Many family legal aid clients are assaulted women who need legal representation to protect themselves and their children but can't afford to pay a lawyer.

Will the minister responsible for women's issues assure this House that she has seen impact studies proving that the Attorney General's plan has not and will not prejudice the interests of these women? Second, will she assure us that she has advocated strongly at the cabinet table against the erosion of the family law legal aid system?

1500

**Hon Marion Boyd (Minister Responsible for Women's Issues):** The Attorney General is responsible for legal aid clinics and has not made an announcement on this. I can assure the member that his reputation and mine as strong advocates on behalf of women tells her the answer to her question, that in fact we would not take any action we thought impacted negatively upon the rights of women in this province.

**Ms Poole:** I gather we are to take on faith, as there appear to be no impact studies, that the minister responsible for women's issues and the Attorney General will act on behalf of women in this province, but I do not have those assurances.

A distinguished group such as the Ontario Family Court Judges Association, family law lawyers across the province and assaulted women's shelters have all combined forces to say they feel that a move towards clinics for family law legal aid would end up discriminating against women by eliminating their right to choose. A man often has resources to hire a lawyer privately, but soon his female partner will have to turn to government-run family law clinics where a lawyer will be assigned on a first come, first served basis regardless of skill or area of specialization.

This is the government that advocates freedom of choice for all, yet wants to cut costs by taking away women's right to choose.

What steps will this minister take to ensure that the Attorney General considers other means of controlling costs within his ministry and does not deal with its economic difficulty on the backs of those who can least afford it: the women and children of this province?

**Hon Mrs Boyd:** It becomes increasingly difficult every day for ministers in this government to answer speculative questions on the part of the opposition. There has been no announcement about any plans to change the

legal aid plan and I'm not prepared to try and answer questions that are based on mere speculation.

We are indeed concerned about enhancing the legal aid rights of women, as we have shown in many of the actions we've taken in terms of parental support and so on. I would advise the member that of course we are strongly advocating only avenues that we believe will enhance the access of battered women to legal services.

#### MINISTRY OF HOUSING SPENDING

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** My question is to the Minister of Housing. I heard the government House leader suggest yesterday that we should hurry through the debate on Bill 121 because they had a celebration planned at the Ministry of Housing. My question to the minister is this: Did the dipperfest take place even though passage of Bill 121 didn't go through, and what was the cost to the taxpayer?

**Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing):** We have not been able to find a time that fits my schedule and that of the busy previous Minister of Housing, our House leader, but we will be sure to invite members of the committee to join us and perhaps have a glass of Coke or ginger ale or something in our office as soon as the legislation is passed. I don't think we'll find the time, certainly in my schedule, for the next two months. When we invite the member to join us, because he was a member of the committee, we'll be glad to accept contributions for his soft drink.

#### PETITIONS

##### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas investments in job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

That's been signed by individuals of H & R Cardinal Contracting Inc, Fedmet Inc, Sudbury Construction Association, Bravo Cement Contracting (Toronto) Ltd and Trojan Technologies Inc. I've signed my signature to these petitions.

##### ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION SITE

**Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale):** I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the accident investigation site located at the Avenue Road and Highway 401 interchange is poorly located in a residential area, causing undue hazard and concern to local residents, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to remove the accident inspection site from within the borders of the Avenue Road and Highway 401 residential area."

The petition is signed by 60 residents and I'm pleased to affix my signature.

#### LAND-LEASED COMMUNITIES

**Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York):** I have a petition.

"We, the residents of land-leased communities, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake felt the previous government set up a committee to report on land-leased communities but took no specific action to protect these communities; and

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake feel that it should be a priority of this government to release the report and take action to bring forward legislation on the following issues that surround land-leased communities; and

"Whereas the residents feel the government of Ontario should examine the problem of no protection against conversion to other uses which would result in the loss of home owners' equity; and

"Whereas the residents of these communities do not receive concise and clear information about their property tax bills; and

"Whereas there are often arbitrary rules set by landlords and owners of land-leased communities which place unfair restrictions or collect commissions on the resale of residents' homes; and

"Whereas there has been confusion resulting with the status of residents with long-term leases and where they fall under rent review legislation;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to follow through and to release the committee report for land-leased communities and propose legislation to give adequate protection to individuals who live in land-leased communities."

I affix my name to this.

#### CONTROL OF SMOKING

**Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte):** I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and it reads:

"We, the undersigned students and members of the Hastings-Prince Edward County Roman Catholic Separate School Board, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the government and society are concerned about promoting healthy lifestyles; and

"Whereas recent studies have found that smoking is a major cause of many illnesses and deaths of both smokers and non-smokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke; and

"Whereas it is important to increase community awareness on this health issue;

"Therefore, we petition the Legislature, following World No-Tobacco Day, for a smoke-free planet for the benefit of our generation and all future generations."

I enclose all these signatures which have been submitted to me.

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** This is to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to the Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

That's signed by 121 people, and I've affixed my name to it.

1510

## EDUCATION FINANCING

**Mr Robert Frankford (Scarborough East):** I have a petition signed by 554 residents of Scarborough and the surrounding district. I'd like to acknowledge the role of Harold Adams, who is a separate school trustee in the area, who's present in the gallery this afternoon.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the British North America Act of 1867 recognizes the right of Catholic students to a Catholic education, and in keeping with this the province of Ontario supports two educational systems from kindergarten to grade 12 OAC; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Separate School Board educates more than 104,000 students across Metropolitan Toronto; and

"Whereas these students represent 30% of the total number of students in this area, yet have access to just 20% of the total residential assessment and 9.5% of the pooled corporate assessment; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Separate School Board is able to spend \$1,678 less on each of its elementary school students and \$2,502 less on each of its secondary school students than our public school counterpart;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to act now and restructure the way in which municipal and provincial tax dollars are apportioned so that Ontario's two principal education systems are funded not only fully but with equity and equality."

I have appended my name to this.

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr D. James Henderson (Etobicoke-Humber):** I have a petition as follows:

"Whereas as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ we feel that the current proposed labour law would violate a Christian's conscience as based on scripture; and

"Whereas the proposed labour reform violates the current Constitution of Canada and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as it contains no provision for per-

sons to exercise their freedom as dictated by their conscience in religion;

"We therefore request that the law should state (a) that union membership be entirely voluntary and based on religious conscience and an employee may be hired but exempted from belonging to a union and/or retain his place of employment if his workplace becomes certified; (b) that based on religious conscience an employee may be exempt from paying union dues; (c) that there be no right of entry on private property by union representatives; and (d) that there be no preference for unions when awarding contracts and that they be outlawed from the boycotting of businesses or construction sites."

That is signed by two and a half dozen constituents and by me.

**Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew):** I have a petition that reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario." That is signed by over 300 constituents, and I affix my signature.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

**Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln):** I have a petition here to the Legislature of Ontario:

"Whereas the Ontario Waste Management Corp, the OWMC, is proposing to build and operate a huge centralized toxic waste incinerator and landfill site in the heart of Ontario's fruit land of Niagara;

"Whereas the toxic waste must be treated at the source because transportation of such huge volumes of toxic waste on our highways is suicidal;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario to change the mandate and directions being promoted by this crown corporation, the Ontario Waste Management Corp."

Affixed to this petition are 228 signatures of constituents across Ontario. I also affix my signature to this petition.

## MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

**Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand):** I have a petition to the Legislature of Ontario:

"Whereas the report of Mr John Brant, arbitrator for the greater London area, has recommended a massive, unwarranted and unprecedented annexation by the city of London; and

"Whereas the arbitration process was a patently undemocratic process resulting in recommendations which

blatantly disregard the public input expressed during the public hearings;

"Whereas the implementation of the arbitrator's report will lead to the destruction of the way of life enjoyed by the current residents of the county of Middlesex and will result in the remnant portions of Middlesex potentially not being economically viable;

"Therefore, we petition the Legislature as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

Signed by 15 residents and signed by myself.

#### REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** I have a petition and it reads as follows:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a quick-fix solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

It's signed by approximately 46 individuals, and I've affixed my name to the petition.

#### LAND-LEASED COMMUNITIES

**Mr O'Connor:** I have a petition here signed by 13 constituents.

"We, the residents of land-leased communities, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake felt the previous government set up a committee to report on land-leased communities but took no specific action to protect these communities; and

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake feel it should be a priority of this government to release the report and take action to bring forward legislation on the following issues that surround land-leased communities; and

"Whereas the residents feel the government of Ontario should examine the problem of no protection against conversion or other uses which would result in the loss of home owners' equity; and

"Whereas the residents of these communities do not receive concise and clear information about their property tax bills; and

"Whereas there are often arbitrary rules set by landlords and owners of land-leased communities which place unfair restrictions or collect commissions on the resale of residents' homes; and

"Whereas there has been confusion resulting with the status of residents with long-term leases and where they fall under rent review legislation;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to follow through and to release the committee report for land-leased communities and propose legislation to give adequate protection to individuals who live in land-leased communities."

I affix my name, Mr Speaker.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey):** I have here 339 names on a petition from Port Elgin, Owen Sound, Petrolia, St Catharines and Unionville. It's a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

#### FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** I have a petition signed by people from all across Markham, Unionville, Thornhill and Milliken Mills.

"To the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the direct discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** I have a second petition.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I have signed this petition with the names of people from Stouffville, Markham, Nepean, Ashton and Grey who have also signed this petition.

1520

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

AGNES MACPHAIL DAY, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR LA JOURNÉE AGNES-MACPHAIL

Mr Malkowski moved first reading of Bill 35, An Act proclaiming Agnes Macphail Day / Loi proclamant la journée Agnes-Macphail.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr Gary Malkowski (York East):** The bill would designate March 24 as Agnes Macphail Day. It would require the government of Ontario to name a public building in her honour.

## HIGHWAY TRAFFIC

STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS  
EN CE QUI CONCERNE  
LE CODE DE LA ROUTE

Mr Chiarelli moved first reading of Bill 36, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act and the Education Act respecting School Bus Monitors / Loi modifiant le Code de la route et la Loi sur l'éducation en ce qui concerne les moniteurs d'autobus scolaires.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West):** The bill is to require every school bus carrying elementary school children to have a monitor on board to ensure the children get on and off the bus and cross the street safely. The bill amends (a) the Highway Traffic Act to set out the obligations of school bus drivers, monitors and other motorists, and (b) the Education Act to require school boards to appoint a monitor for each bus that is used to transport its elementary school students.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS  
EN CE QUI CONCERNE L'ENFANCE EN DIFFICULTÉ

Mr Silipo moved first reading of Bill 37, An Act to amend the Education Act and certain other Acts with respect to Special Education / Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'éducation et certaines autres lois en ce qui concerne l'enfance en difficulté.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education):** I'm particularly pleased to introduce this bill during National Access Awareness Week. This bill amends the Education Act and related statutes in areas dealing with education programs and services for exceptional pupils. First, the bill revokes the term "trainable retarded pupil" and provisions in current statutes dealing with "trainable retarded pupils." Second, it authorizes local area public school boards in Metropolitan Toronto to assume responsibility no later than January 1, 1995, for the education of exceptional pupils with developmental handicaps. Third, it revokes the provisions dealing with hard-to-serve pupils. I invite all members to give their support to this legislation.

CITY OF OTTAWA ACT, 1992

Mr Chiarelli moved first reading of Bill Pr34, An Act respecting the City of Ottawa.

Motion agreed to.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

RENT CONTROL ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR LE CONTRÔLE DES LOYERS

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for third reading of Bill 121, An Act to revise the Law related to Residential Rent Regulation / Loi révisant les lois relatives à la réglementation des loyers d'habitation.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The member for Mississauga West had the floor.

**Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton):** In the absence of the member for Mississauga West, I will be pleased to carry on the debate for the Liberal caucus on third reading of Bill 121.

It's been a long, arduous process over the last year and a half. In fact, it's been one year, six months and I think five days. I don't think I have the number of hours, but you can tell it's been a long time since we first started rent legislation in this Legislature: November 1990. This legislation has outlasted two ministers of Housing, two Conservative critics, and I guess I'm the last vestige of the original members who were involved in Bill 4.

As we looked at rent legislation over the last year and a half, I thought about what we needed in rent legislation, what we needed to do in order to reach this nirvana of having rent legislation that suited the landlords, the tenants and the aging housing stock of this province. I came up with six goals which I believe are necessary for any rent legislation:

The first is rent stability for tenants. That was the original precept of rent legislation when it was brought in in

1975, and I believe it holds true today that this is a very important criterion.

Second, any rent legislation has to have as one of its priorities preserving our aging housing stock.

Third, rent policy should not be so complex that tenants, landlords and people working in the housing industry cannot understand it. It should not be confusing and it should not be riddled with bureaucracy.

The fourth precept is that landlords should be allowed a reasonable return on investment. I firmly believe the private sector has a major place and a major job in the housing sector, and that should continue.

The fifth thing is that any rent legislation should be balanced. It should be taking into account the need for tenant protection, the needs of our housing stock, to make sure it's preserved, and also the need of landlords to maintain their stock and to make a reasonable return.

The final and perhaps one of the most important goals of any rent legislation is that it should be fair and it should be democratic.

I'd like to take a look at Bill 121 and see whether it measures up to these somewhat lofty goals.

First of all, let's take a look at what form the legislation was in when it was introduced for second reading. That was almost a year ago this month. At that time, the Liberal caucus had to make a decision whether to support this rent legislation. Its form at that time was that it would allow one rent increase per year, as the previous Bill 51 did; it had provisions for notice of rent increases, as Bill 51 did; it had a provision for maintaining our housing stock, as Bill 51 did, but this took a very different form.

Under the legislation formulated last June, the concept was that there would be two guidelines, depending on the size of the building. So small buildings under six units would have one guideline and large buildings over six units—some of us may differ on that particular definition of large buildings—would have a different guideline.

1530

The third precept of this legislation when it was introduced a year ago was that it would have a cap, 3% above the guideline. The legislation did not provide any costs-no-longer-borne provision, which tenants had been asking for and which I, as Liberal critic for Housing, had asked for in Bill 4. For those members who aren't aware, costs no longer borne is quite a simple concept, although a little bit more difficult to implement. The precept of costs no longer borne is that when a tenant has had to have a rent increase because of a capital repair or a capital improvement in the building, once that repair or major item is paid off then the tenant should have a corresponding reduction in the rent. It seems to make a lot of sense, right, Mr Speaker? The original legislation did not have this type of mechanism.

Another precept of the legislation a year ago was that there was no appeals board. This was something that was certainly roundly criticized at the time. The fourth precept was that there would not be a standards board but instead matters of compliance with property standards and maintenance would be brought into the rent review system.

At that time the Liberal caucus had to make a decision whether to support this legislation. We did, and I recom-

mended to my caucus that we do so, for two reasons. The first was that, notwithstanding the fact it was called the Rent Control Act, this was still a rent review process with some flexibility built into the system. The second reason was that for the first time the NDP government admitted the promise it made in the Agenda for People was unworkable and that there was a necessity for cost pass-throughs in the way of rent increases for necessary repairs. That was a very major concession by the NDP government. I criticized them not for changing their promise but for making that promise to begin with.

Based on that, we voted for the legislation and said that a number of things would have to happen in order for us to support it on third reading. One of the things we mentioned was the fact that there must be an appeal board, that there must be a mechanism, particularly for tenants and small landlords who cannot afford to go to the Divisional Court to appeal decisions of rent officers that are wrong. There was no independent, arm's-length appeal board, and we made it clear this would be one of our priority amendments.

A second priority amendment was reinstatement and in fact strengthening of the standards board. The Liberal caucus felt then and the Liberal caucus feels now that the standards board, which was composed equally of tenant and landlord representatives, was one of the best things in Bill 51. The problem with the standards board was that it had to be linked to the rent review process in order to get final decisions about rent reductions. What we called for was reinstating this board and in fact giving it more jurisdiction so that it would not have to be involved with rent review.

Another thing we said as a Liberal caucus at the time of second reading was that we wanted this legislation to be changed and to be brought into a simpler form. It was extremely complicated legislation. I found that somewhat ironic actually, given the fact that when in opposition the NDP was extremely critical of Bill 51 for its complexity, but what resulted was Bill 121, which had all of one clause fewer than Bill 51. The terminology was just as complicated and, in fact, the bureaucracy had been increased.

Those were all things that we felt were wrong with the bill in its form on second reading and we pledged to bring in amendments to try to rectify this process.

When we went to committee, the government had made some movement. First of all, they took a very complex system where you had different guideline increases for small buildings and for big buildings and they changed that into one guideline, the same as it was in Bill 51; one guideline for all buildings. We are glad, after many arguments by all parties that having it based on the size of the building didn't make any sense, that finally the government listened. If they had made it on the basis of old and new buildings, while it would've still been complex, at least it would've made sense. What the government had proposed on second reading didn't. That was a gratifying change when the government came forward in the standing committee on general government.

The other thing the government changed which I very fully supported was that it finally included, after many attempts by our caucus to make it see reason, a costs-no-longer-borne provision. It was quite amusing actually, because in August 1991 the government was still saying: "We can't bring it in. It's too complicated. We don't know how to figure it out. We don't know how to take it off. We don't know how to add it on. We don't know how to deal with this." I suggested that maybe the computerized age should catch up with the Ministry of Housing so that it could deal with it. At the time I didn't seem to sense a lot of sympathy, but something happened and when it got to committee there was a government amendment which brought in costs no longer borne.

There were positive things. However, there was still no right of automatic hearing, still no appeals board, still no standards board. The legislation was still incredibly complex and difficult to understand. The Liberal caucus brought forward 65 amendments in committee. The government itself had over 100 amendments to a bill that had only 130 clauses. I think you can tell by this how complex and convoluted this legislation is. To date we have had, I believe, in the order of 250 amendments by three caucuses to a bill that started out with 130 clauses.

How does the minister expect any tenants, any small landlords, any Housing critics for that matter, to be able to comprehend this very complex legislation? I did my level best. I must say in defence of the government that it did accept a number of the Liberal amendments. With one exception, they were all what I'd categorize as minor amendments.

A funny thing happened on the way to the forum. We started out with our Liberal amendments being very balanced, trying to create this balance in the rent legislation with a package tenants felt was necessary and a package landlords felt was necessary. The funny thing was that our tenant amendments got passed through and our landlord package got rejected wholesale. The minister may say, although she won't have an opportunity today, "Yes, this is good because we protect tenants," but what has happened is that in its rejection of some of these very basic components the minister and the ministry have not protected tenants.

If our aging housing stock is not preserved and protected, this will not benefit tenants because tenants first of all want a decent, comfortable place in which to live. These are their homes we're talking about. I think this legislation with its provisions for maintenance, by taking it away from the standards board which was a very balanced entity, by putting it into rent review with incredibly stringent qualifications, has done a disservice to the tenants and the buildings, because instead of using a carrot and stick approach, where there is some incentive, it has used a stick and stick approach.

A number of the provisions they've put in are simply unreasonable. I fear there will be a backlash. I've already heard from landlords that there will be a backlash and our buildings will not be as well maintained as before. There is no doubt that we have a number of landlords and a number of buildings in this province which are not role models for anybody, which are particularly poorly maintained, where the landlord has been insensitive and abusive. But I main-

tain that this is not the norm, that the majority of our buildings are quite well maintained, particularly considering that the majority of our housing stock is now over 20 years old.

1540

What this legislation does is penalize the good landlords, the ones who are honestly trying to do a very difficult job in keeping that aging housing stock maintained. But the ministry has rejected our efforts to reinstate the standards board, to strengthen the standards board and to put standards and compliance of standards under that jurisdiction.

We now come to third reading and we now know what the bill looks like in its final form. The appeals board: The amendment introduced by the Liberal caucus has been rejected. The amendment to reinstate and strengthen the standards board has been rejected. The legislation is even more complex and more unwieldy than it first started out to be. Mr Speaker, if you can believe this, notwithstanding that they've removed the appeals board and the standards board, the legislation is going to be more costly to administer and it is going to be more bureaucratic.

They rejected the Liberals' green amendment and they even rejected our modified amendments which we thought as a bare minimum—amendments that were favoured by the Ministry of Energy—would actually be considered. They weren't.

We had an amendment where we would allow tenants and landlords to equalize rents. That meant that if there were two identical apartments in a building, one being charged \$700 rent, the other being charged \$500 rent, they would equalize so that both tenants would pay \$600. They're getting the same service and they're getting the same unit; they should pay the same rent. Many tenants would have liked that restored, but instead the government said no because this would legalize illegal units, which is utter nonsense, because those units are no more illegal and those rents no more illegal today with this amendment than without. Those rents are still being charged. The ministry doesn't even know where these rents are. That does not make any sense.

We tried to define inadequate maintenance, to put some criteria to it in the legislation so that there would be a guidepost for tenants and for landlords so they knew what they were facing before they went to rent control, or rent review, as I prefer to call it.

When I look at the original six goals I outlined to you a little earlier, Mr Speaker, yes, I will grant that the government has created rent stability; the cap has done this. But the second point, whether they have preserved our aging housing stock, is still in debate. Many sources say what they have done is the worst thing that could have happened to our housing stock.

The third thing, about the rent policy being complex: I've already outlined to this House how this is one of the most complex pieces of legislation I have seen in my days as a legislator. The sad part of it is that somebody said to me the other day, "You understand this legislation better than any other member in the Legislature," which included the minister. I said, "I find that a very sad state of affairs

because there are many parts of this legislation I still am grappling with."

Fourth, landlords should be allowed a reasonable return on investment: The dirty P-word, "profit," was taken out of the guideline because the minister said there should not be profit in rental housing. I think a lot of landlords would say there's no reasonable return.

Fifth, is it balanced? It speaks for itself. It is not balanced. But ironically, in an effort to protect tenants, with some of the decisions they have made we will indeed have the opposite occur.

Finally, is it fair and democratic? I submit to you, Mr Speaker, it is not. How can it be democratic when it takes away the appeal board, when there is no independent arm's-length mechanism to revisit ministry decisions? This is something landlords and tenants are definitely unanimous on, the need for an appeal board. Yet it has been rejected.

When all is said and done, I don't feel this legislation meets my test for good rent legislation. The minister tried to tell us the other day, and almost got laughed out of the House, how it resembled their 1990 campaign promise. In fact these were her words. The minister said:

"As I listened to her read from that document again, and considering the principles that are embodied in this legislation, I thought again how very close this legislation is to what we have talked about in the Agenda for People."

We have two very, very strong tenant advocates in the gallery today. We have Elinor Mahoney, from the Tenant Advocacy Group. We have Mary-Jo Donovan, president of the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations.

[Applause]

**Ms Poole:** I'm glad to see members acknowledging their presence.

**Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre):** Don't forget Deborah Wandell.

**Ms Poole:** Deborah apparently is up there somewhere, but I can't see her. But if you ask them if this legislation monitors or resembles their campaign promise, they would say a resounding no.

This is their campaign promise, "One increase a year based on inflation." There would be no extra bonuses to landlords for capital or financing costs. "It's simple, it's fair and it avoids the bureaucracy which has frustrated both tenants and small landlords." Give me a break, Mr Speaker. I hope that's not unparliamentary, but I just can't believe the minister would think this resembled what they brought in.

She said, "There's one increase a year." There was one increase per year under Bill 51. She said, "It's tied to inflation because the guideline is." This says "based on inflation." Inflation this year is 2%. This year under the minister's proposal landlords can claim up to 9% and tenants would face up to 9% rent increase. How does this bear any resemblance to what we have in Bill 121?

They say, "It's simple, it's fair and it avoids the bureaucracy." I can tell you, Mr Speaker, Bill 121 is the epitome of bureaucracy, the epitome of complexity. It does not resemble their promise, and I for one do not think they should've made their promise. They made it because they

were either opportunistic or they didn't understand the housing market. In either case, they shouldn't have made it.

What we have today is legislation which I do not believe bodes well for the tenants, for the landlords and for the aging housing stock of this province. I would've liked to be able to stand, as Housing critic for the Liberal caucus, and support this legislation on third reading. I am unable to do so and I would urge all my colleagues to follow suit.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** The time allowed for debate of third reading of Bill 121 has now expired.

**Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing):** I move third reading of the bill.

**The Acting Speaker:** Ms Gigantes has moved third reading of Bill 121.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** I believe there has been an agreement among the House leaders that we would defer the vote on this until 5:45 pm this afternoon.

**The Acting Speaker:** Do we have unanimous consent to defer? Agreed?

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** Mr Speaker, there has to be some indication that a division is about to take place.

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** Let us divide now, and if it were to pass, then the honourable minister would not have to arrange for what we've already agreed on. I have a feeling that with all this unanimity around here, there's a chance something might happen, but it's not going to be what she thinks.

1550

**The Acting Speaker:** Ms Gigantes have moved third reading of Bill 121. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** If I could repeat, I believe there is an understanding among the House leaders that we would defer this vote until 5:45.

**The Acting Speaker:** Do we have unanimous consent that the vote be deferred till 5:45 today? Agreed.

Vote deferred.

House in committee of the whole.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY  
STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992  
LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS  
CONCERNANT L'ACCÈS À L'INFORMATION  
ET LA PROTECTION DE LA VIE PRIVÉE

Consideration of Bill 136, An Act to amend certain Acts relating to Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy / Loi modifiant certaines lois concernant l'accès à l'information et la protection de la vie privée.

**Hon Tony Silipo (Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet):** Mr Chair, I wonder if I could have permission to move to the front and have staff come in for this.

**The Second Deputy Chair (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** Please proceed. I would like to remind members that we were dealing with Bill 136 in committee of the whole, a government amendment to subsection 2(1) moved by Mr Sutherland, which reads as follows: "I move that section 40.1 of the—

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** Dispense.

**The Second Deputy Chair:** Dispensed. Debate, discussion, the member for Markham.

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** I'm concerned about what we're having to do. Bill 136 is certainly not going to be one of the bills that ties—the Liberals aren't going to use the opportunity, I don't think, to keep the House sitting for an extended length of time on Bill 136, and certainly I have no such intention.

But I am concerned with the bill and, in particular, with the whole Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act itself. As one looks at all the government we have in this country, we have the federal government with its control of information, the province with its own control of information and now the municipal and local governments all getting into the act. Everybody is putting walls around information, making it next to impossible for laypeople to obtain information they might need to use in the course of doing their own jobs. In fact, the bottom line to me is that we've got so much government in this country that we have enough to run a population of 130 million rather than the something less than 30 million we've got.

We end up coming through with legislation such as this, which to those who would really understand what it's all about as it applies to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Occupational Health and Safety Act—you're dealing with privileged information in a specialized way, and then all the extra regulations by which this government will make sure that it interfaces correctly and properly with the federal government, all of which is necessary and all of which becomes a dreadful pain to the public at large. All we're doing in this legislation is that the longer we sit we come out with more regulations and more controls, all of which cause people to hire lawyers to interpret the laws that we've built and created.

**Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent):** It's cleaning it up, Don.

**Mr Cousens:** Oh, cleaning it up. You Dippers haven't cleaned anything up since you came to power on September 6.

**The Second Deputy Chair:** I would like the honourable member to address the Chair, please.

**Mr Cousens:** If they're going to interrupt, they're going to get a little lecture of another kind, Mr Chairman. When they come along and say they're cleaning things up, there's going to be a massive cleanup for us in the next election, after the next 1,250 days, when the New Democrats go to their exile.

That exile can't come too soon for me because they have done nothing to inspire confidence in any thinking Ontarians since October 1 when their cabinet was sworn in. Since then it's gone down, and a notch downwards today with the spectacle of the Premier pontificating about his appointment process of a Sault Ste Marie native NDPer

to a position. Along with all the other NDPers they're putting into high offices, it's just further proof that the New Democrats have lost control of the Agenda for People they were so proud of.

**The Second Deputy Chair:** Bill 136 refers to an act relating to freedom of information and protection of privacy.

**Mr Cousens:** Mr Chairman, that wouldn't have happened had it not been for those unkind interjections from some of the New Democratic backbenchers who seldom speak to the House on any other occasion except when I or some of the members of this side happen to have something to say.

Even if it isn't as bright and brilliant as some of the other spokespeople, I at least have the privilege and pleasure of putting on the record a few concerns I have with regard to the process, and the process to me is one of those things where I would be the happiest person to turn in my money that I make as an MPP if we could spend less time in this House and have fewer laws so that the people of Ontario could get used to all the ones that have been made over the last 125 years.

When we celebrate Confederation this summer, are we going to be celebrating that we've got more controls around the protection of privacy act? There shouldn't be that much that is private. If you're talking about an open government, which the New Democrats have always said they would have—and God forbid if we ever give them another chance like the one they've just squandered away. I mean, we're almost halfway through this terrible period of Ontario's history in which the New Democrats have come along and caused us such dismay and gets guys like me out of my chair and into an act.

I tell you, Mr Speaker, this act doesn't change too much. It's just indicative of the priorities of this government. If this government could come along and say, "Okay, we've got a deal," if this House were working in such a way that what is important could be worked out, where we'd sit around and develop a consensus on a number of the key issues that would be important to all parties, such as would have happened in a minority government if the 38% of the population on September 6 had not swung such a high-powered group of New Democrats into power, then we wouldn't be in a position where you end up having more and more regulations and controls being brought in by this group.

1600

Isn't it funny—and I think this is really why I wanted to offer a few words today on this bill—that when the New Democrats were in opposition they had something to say on everything, they were going to make such great changes, and since they've come to power we see them falling in line perfectly, adding to the confusion of the common layperson on just exactly what government's all about. If you really wanted to do something with this whole Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, you could do something that would make it easier for people to get information they want and that is available under the freedom of information act.

On another aspect of this bill, just recently, as critic for Environment, I was concerned with the need to understand certain aspects of the ministry to do with Harbourfront recycling, so I sent in a request to the ministry. They weren't about to respond to me, not as a member of the Legislature, no way. They didn't have to do it, but I had the right to proceed to get that information through the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. So I submitted my request and in time got the letter back from them indicating, "Yes, we could get that information for you." I wasn't sure how good the information would be; I had no way of assessing it beforehand. But they came back and said, "For \$288 we'll get you the information you want." By the way, I don't get any money for that as an MPP, within my funds. I had to write a personal cheque for \$288 in order to obtain the necessary documents.

**Mr David Christopherson (Hamilton Centre):** You've got it.

**Mr Cousens:** I might have the dollars, but I'll tell you, there are other things I'd rather spend them on than what I ended up getting. If freedom of information means you pick up a pile of junk, which is what I got—what I got wasn't worth 50 cents.

But with this government in place, the New Democrats who pushed strenuously for more freedom of information, now that you're in power why don't you deal with some of the other issues under the freedom of information act? Why don't you use some of those inventive suggestions you were so good at when you were in opposition? Now that you're in power and you have an opportunity to do something about it, you do sweet nothing.

Chairman of Management Board is sitting up at the front bench with two assistants to assist him through this very strenuous bill. That's fine, and we've always had that; I've seen that since I came down here in 1981. They come along and they feel very important. I'll tell you, you'd feel a lot better if you came up with some good ideas on how to improve this system instead of just tripping more and more people up.

Yes, we've got to have this bill. Yes, I will end up supporting the bill.

**Mr Hayes:** Sit down, then.

**Mr Cousens:** That's it, they want me to sit down. I have the pleasure of making them suffer a little here and letting them know that I'm sick of the lack of priorities of this government. You don't have any priorities when it comes to the small person who's out there and ends up having more and more regulations and more and more laws. If you think we have an act that works in this province, it doesn't. The freedom of information act is not what people think it is. It is not working.

Here we are dealing with a few little things so that this province can deal with another level of government, the federal government, and make it work a little better. I hope it does work better. The issues happen to have importance. It deals with hazardous waste, and we should know what's going on, but it's like the CIA with all the controls we have in this government. So much is secret, so much is kept under wraps. I would rather see a far more open govern-

ment, a more open process and more accessible data to people who are interested.

Maybe one of the things the minister could look at doing is computerizing far more. You've spent hundreds of millions of dollars, if not billions of dollars, on computers. More and more of these data should be available on CRTs and on terminals so that people can access them far more freely than exists right now.

So we're dealing with this most important bill today. If you'd brought forward some Sunday shopping legislation, then we'd have something to get our teeth into. Instead, what this government's doing is saying, "This House, if it doesn't deal with all the legislation by June 25, could well end up having to sit on into the summer."

**Mr Elston:** They didn't say what year.

**Mr Cousens:** Oh, what year; that's true too. But here is a government that took three weeks before it started this spring session. I don't know what they were doing, but they were out there causing the House not to sit, then the House leader of the New Democrats just recently put on the record that we in the opposition parties are not cooperating.

We don't have the key bills for this Legislature yet. We have not debated the budget. We have not had an opportunity to assess the budget in any meaningful way at all. We've had two or three speakers and nothing further. What a breach of tradition. If there's anyone who wants to break traditions, it's the New Democrats. You know how to wreck things. You're doing a great job of that, and I'm sick of it. I want to put on the record that this is wrong, the way you're running this Legislature.

[Applause]

**Mr Cousens:** Thank you, my two friends. I don't have that many; you can tell.

It's wrong. Here we are. We're into the month of June; it's June 2. This government is going to table any day now—I'm told that the Minister of Labour is imminently going to deliver his new labour legislation, and they want to have that labour legislation passed for second reading by June 25 so it can go out for public hearings during the summer, yet we don't have that bill before us right now. We're dealing instead with this bill, An Act to amend certain Acts relating to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy.

What I started to say is that this government is on the record as saying that if we don't pass a bill we haven't even seen yet—it hasn't even been tabled yet—if we don't pass it in time, then the House leader of the New Democrats has said, "Well, we might change the rules, or we could use closure, or we might sit on into the summer."

**Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph):** Where did he state that?

**Mr Cousens:** It was quoted in one of our Toronto papers. I don't talk to him except when I go to House leaders' meetings, but it's close enough to where it's coming from. He doesn't deal with us one on one in any meaningful way. You end up having to read the local papers to find out what you people are up to, because you don't make announcements in the Legislature; you make them in surreptitious, quiet, under-the-cover ways rather than publicly

and openly here. So when we're dealing with confidence and freedom of information, one thing you guys are bad at is making things public and sharing it honestly and openly so this system can work.

My point is that here is a government that was so strong on many points of view when it was sitting in opposition. Now they're in power and they're working away, and here we are in an afternoon working on Bill 136. I have to tell you, no one's going to remember this bill. I hope it does help someone. I am going to support it, but come on. Where are your priorities, Mr Chairman of Management Board? What can you do to really clean up this bill to make it possible for people to access that information more easily and more economically? I present that in the form of a question before we proceed further with part I of that bill.

**The Second Deputy Chair:** Further debate on Mr Sutherland's amendment?

**Mr Elston:** My intervention here will be fairly brief. I have here very close beside me the black book, which contains in it all the estimates of the Board of Internal Economy, a meeting for which I am now slightly late, but I know my associates who are sitting around the table are watching us here in the House and will forgive me for being just two or three more minutes before I go and visit with them and vote for the estimates of not only the House but this entire operation; and that should give all the people who are watching this debate pause for consideration.

I wasn't going to speak very long, but I detected a certain lack of understanding of the freedom of information bill and the series of things that are happening with that bill on the part of my colleague from Markham, a man I know we were predetermined to have to sit here and listen to, because he, like I, is a noble Presbyterian, and having to suffer and having to suffer in sort of a predetermined manner is part of a doctrine which he understands much better than I. But we shouldn't have to suffer through suggestions that for the people dealing with the freedom of information act, an act for which I had some responsibility in another incarnation, it isn't working well.

1610

I think that as we go further with these bills we will make them work much better. In fact, quite contrary to what the honourable member says, maybe we will forget about Bill 136, and I hope we do forget about Bill 136, because that will mean it does function quite well. It's designed to let people have an eye on industry, and in this thing, when we talk about industry we really are talking about having access to viewing what is happening in a particularly important area of concern environmentally. To be quite honest, if we don't hear about this again, it will mean that we've done the right thing.

I understand from our critic, who is unable to be with us today—but we're proceeding anyway—that we likewise are going to be supporting this. I understand there was a short intervention of time because of questions raised by the member for Carleton, which I understand have been found to be interesting but largely overcome-

able, if that's the right word, and now we can go ahead and deal with the legislation.

But I want to say to the member for Markham that even as we speak, there are various understandings of the act and how it is working in its application to governments at the provincial level; also as we speak, there are implementations being done of the freedom of information act at the municipal level. I appreciate that while he may not think it's going quickly enough, that work is being done even as we speak. It would be unfair to leave the impression with the public in general that there is no concern about how this piece of legislation is working.

The fact that the honourable member has to pay to have access to a whole series of reports and documents is a question that has concerned not only this administration but our administration. I do believe it also was of some concern to the member for Carleton, because he sat on this policy development as an issue from about 1982, if I recall correctly from my early days, until 1985, when a marvellous event occurred and May 2 found the Liberal administration being able to take responsibility for this.

The fact is that you had to develop a policy which allowed the government to charge back some of the actual costs of providing information; that it had to be fair, there had to be an opportunity for people to have access, but the government could not always be asked to pay the full cost of allowing the staff time and the actual photocopies of materials to be charged against its own budgets. It's an expensive procedure.

Now, one other point. While he may be upset with that, I think there's been a balance struck. But I can expect that the current administration, like any other in preparation for its ultimate return to opposition—which we all have to prepare for, some more quickly than others—will want to have a fair and reasonable policy with respect to charging. I think there is that, because you can always take some other option in terms of reviewing material. You could choose perhaps to be physically present to review some of the things under the auspices of ministries, and you can always try to work out some kind of understanding on how you might reduce the actual cost of accessing that information.

There will always be difficulties. It will always cost somebody too much at some stage. In any event, it will always cost the taxpayers the full bill because there is, as everybody knows, an exemption for the first few hours of work being done to find information.

Now on to a second concern, which is that there is some information that the honourable member received in his freedom of information packet that had some deletions, and there were some severable materials in his documents that he was very much concerned about. While this bill is short-formed "freedom of information," there is also a part that says "protection of privacy." Particularly in this legislation, where you have hazardous materials being discussed, you also have to be aware that there are issues of proprietary interests held by companies that manufacture certain things. The release of information about their products would in fact violate some of the secret nature of the work

that goes into formulating products. As a result, you have to have some balance.

I was surprised to hear the honourable gentleman and member for Markham indicating that he wanted to have full access, full range to all the information and that he was throwing out the window the sense that there was any importance at all to privacy.

While I could go on much longer, I think it behooves all of us, before we start making these sort of political speeches—because somebody who has spoken to us recently doesn't like everything that's going on with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act—to present a balanced picture. There will be constituents—and I know constituents in the honourable member's riding, for instance—for whom the protection of privacy is absolutely essential if they are to guard the proprietary interests in their product. So while we may leave the impression as speakers from time to time that there are very simple messages to be left, with respect, that is not the case in the situation with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

I haven't spoken very much about the bill itself, other than to say I'm pleased the minister took time, when the matter of a potential problem was raised by the member for Carleton, to review the issue and satisfy himself—and that's all we can ask him, his staff and others—that the problem was surmountable. I'm pleased that he actually suspended the activities so study could be had and that, upon his assurances that the problem has been dealt with or is dealt with adequately enough, we should be prepared now to proceed without languishing too long on long speeches about how badly we feel undone by the slow process of legislation or somebody going to the Globe and Mail complaining about legislation going through the House.

I suspect the member for Markham will want to withdraw his comments about this being a very unimportant bill, because the fact that it is short, the fact that it deals with a very precise piece of public policy, in some minds may mean that it is not important. But anything that surrounds freedom of information in a democracy, in my view, is essential and has a higher priority, perhaps, than some of the other speeches made by us.

Our administration was supportive. The opposition party, New Democrats, were supportive from the time I started in this business in 1981, at the same time as the honourable member for Markham and the then majority Conservatives—how many people did they have in office in those days? I shudder to think it. How much more appropriate the numbers are now. It seems to me rational—but even the Tories under the auspices of the member for Carleton, as he now is—and I think he then was—were supportive of freedom of information. The fact that we don't have perfect legislation is but a passing comment on the imperfection of humanity, and I don't think we should preoccupy ourselves too much with penalizing the current administration for the human failings of all of us since we have all had a very supportive hand in putting together the freedom of information package.

That being the case, I think we should probably move with dispatch out of committee of the whole. We will be voting with the administration on this particular matter. I thank you for allowing my intervention, and again I thank the minister and his staff for allowing us to review a problem before we had the argument in here and perhaps caused wrong impressions to be left with the public.

With those few words, I am now going off to see if there is a budget to be approved for the legislative operations of the province.

**The Second Deputy Chair:** Further debate on Mr Sutherland's amendment to Bill 136? The honourable member for Essex-Kent.

1620

**Mr Hayes:** Very briefly, I'm going to say a few words in regard to this amendment. When the workplace hazardous materials information system legislation first came out, of course, there were a lot of concerns about trade secrets. At that time I was a health and safety representative with the CAW and Ford Motor Co. The legislation really came out for the protection of the worker, but some of the chemical companies were really afraid that if they disclosed too much information, someone would be able to use that material and undercut them or they were afraid, I guess, that the workers would start their own chemical companies. It made us chuckle to hear that.

The most important thing about that legislation is that it gave workers the right and the proper information to know just what they were working with. It also gave workers information as to how it would affect them if they came in contact with any of these materials.

One of the big problems we have in health and safety in the workplace is that you have certain products or substances where, if there was only one particular ingredient, you would be able to set the threshold limit on exposure, but some chemicals may have three, four, five or six different ingredients and each one of those ingredients may be a carcinogen. You really don't know.

I think this particular piece of legislation works two-fold: It protects the trade secret for the employer but at the same time it allows the proper people to receive the information to allow them to do their job, to protect the worker. I think that's very important. It spells out very clearly that if the someone in the health and safety agency or the Ministry of Labour inspector had this information, the person couldn't just go out and disclose this to anyone. I think that is very important.

I know the member speaking on behalf of the Liberal Party over there thought maybe we were going to try to prolong things, but I really believe this is a piece of legislation that all three parties should support, and I think I've seen that indication. I would like to thank them in advance for their support for this piece of legislation.

**Mr Cousens:** As we proceed with discussion on this bill—and indeed, we will not be all that long. When the member for Bruce made a few comments, he seemed rather defensive of the involvement the Liberal Party had in the preparation of this bill. Certainly when it went through it had the support of all three parties of this House,

but we're in a position now when we could be making some other improvements to the bill.

The kind of thing I referred to is really an instance where this bill becomes prohibitively expensive for people who in the line of doing their work require information, and in order to get that information it is necessary to sign a personal cheque to obtain the information they want. I would specifically like to ask the minister to comment on that part of the way in which the overall bill works and to see if you've got any suggestions and recommendations.

We've got to protect the privacy of certain people, there's no doubt about that, but there's nothing free about the freedom of information bill. It is a very expensive bill, and it's especially expensive when you come along and spend \$288 and what you get really isn't useful at all.

If I'd had some better feeling as to what was in there, of course I could have gotten a real kernel of goodness that would come back and cause the Minister of the Environment to wake up, but I haven't been able to do that for the last two years anyway.

If there is any way in which this minister could comment briefly, at least before we leave this afternoon, because I'd like to stay on this subject for a moment or two, I'd be most grateful: what action you plan to take, whether you're totally satisfied with the way it's working right now, and if there are any plans or proposals you have to address the kind of personal concern I have, as a member who finds it very difficult to do my job, especially with the limitations you're putting around me.

**Hon Mr Silipo:** I'm pleased to make a couple of comments in, hopefully, concluding this aspect of dealing with this bill. Let me just first address the concerns raised by the member for Markham, because he talked, both in the question he put now and in the comments he made earlier, about a number of concerns he has with the freedom of information legislation as a whole.

He will know no doubt that we've had one of our legislative committees look at the whole bill and a number of aspects of the bill. I believe that included in that were also some of the issues he raised with respect to the fee structure and some of the other aspects. I noted with great interest and appreciation that the committee's report from the three parties represented in this Legislature was unanimous. I indicated to members of the committee when I spoke to them at the committee that I was looking forward to their advice with respect to how the legislation could be improved, and I was pleased to see that the recommendations indeed came unanimously.

I can say to the member for Markham and to members of the Legislature that we will be looking and are looking now at the suggestions made by the committee and will be looking very seriously at the changes proposed. Not just because they raised a number of important issues, which they did, but particularly also in a situation like that where they managed to reach agreement at the committee level, I think it's incumbent upon the government to therefore take those considerations into serious account. We are doing that. So I hope that, likely for the fall session, we will have amendments we can propose to the legislation which will reflect the kinds of things the committee has looked at. I

hope that within that we may be able to address some of the concerns the member for Markham has expressed again this afternoon.

I wanted to say also that I appreciated the comments made by the member for Bruce. I'm sure that as he goes off to join the board of management he will likely be of as much help there as he was here. I think that'll be quite useful. I appreciated the comments he made, particularly with respect to the process we followed. It seemed to me that when the member for Carleton raised some concerns about this legislation it was incumbent upon me to take a very serious look at those concerns and to ask that the legislation and the amendment not proceed until we'd had an opportunity to assure him and the House that the changes envisioned by this Legislation are not only useful ones but ones that I think protect the public interest that he was concerned about and that I know other members of this House have talked about in the earlier discussions that took place here.

Given that this is also the first piece of legislation I've taken through, let me also just express my appreciation to my parliamentary assistant, the member for Oxford, who took forward the earlier portion of the committee of the whole and the presentation of this legislation.

Let me just say that I think, as has been stated, that the essence of the amendment before us is really one that tries to balance the needs for worker safety with the interests of manufacturers for trade secrets and the protection of those trade secrets. I think there is ample provision in my mind, and certainly from the advice that we received from the officials, to continue to ensure that the interests of the public with respect to safety and the use of hazardous materials in the workplace continue to be protected. What we are talking about with respect to the provisions of non-disclosure really has to do with not being able to disclose the particular ingredients that relate, as I say, to trade secrets.

But there's nothing in what we are presenting that in any way prevents disclosure to the public of a hazardous situation or a potential problem. Indeed, those provisions continue to exist in the legislation. In that sense the public interest, both for the workers on a particular site and in a general way, continues to be protected. In that sense I am satisfied that the amendment we're presenting is a useful one that will allow us access to the details we need and the officials in the Ministry of Labour to continue to do the work they need to do to protect the workers of the this province.

1630

**The Second Deputy Chair:** Further debate on Mr Sutherland's amendment? Seeing none, is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Sutherland's amendment to Bill 136 carry?

Motion agreed to.

**The Second Deputy Chair:** Shall section 2 of Bill 136 carry as amended?

**Mr Bernard Grandmaitre (Ottawa East):** I do have an amendment.

**The Second Deputy Chair:** Mr Grandmaitre moves that subsection 40.1(2) of the Occupational Health and

Safety Act, as set out in subsection 2(1) of the bill, be amended by adding the following clause:

“(c) any person or body if the officer or employee of the ministry determines that the information is of such a nature that its disclosure could reasonably be expected to be in the interest of the health and welfare of the public.”

**Mr Grandmaitre:** I think it's self-explanatory. We hope the government members will support the amendment.

**The Second Deputy Chair:** Debate?

**Mr Cousens:** I think it's a very simple, straightforward amendment to the bill which would then really mean that there are going to be exceptions allowed when it is in the public interest. I believe that is the intent of the amendment. I guess the problem we have is that we get locked into so many ways of just closing all the doors and options. If you don't have some of those options there, the law becomes more of a burden to society, which I believe it has become anyway at this point. We need certain basic laws, we need to have guidelines, but we also need to have opportunities for some common sense to take place.

For a change, I think we're seeing a little common sense from the Liberals. I can support that whenever it's seen, even if it is the exception to the rule.

**The Second Deputy Chair:** Further debate on Mr Grandmaitre's amendment? The honourable Chairman of Management Board.

**Hon Mr Silipo:** With regret, I have to indicate that we will not be supporting this amendment. I think the problem that it essentially poses is that it negates to some extent the amendment we've just adopted. In fact, it causes additional problems in that with this amendment we would not get access to the information we require from the federal authorities.

I can just say again, as I indicated earlier, and to bring in a further point, that in our view it isn't necessary to have this amendment in there because the hazardous properties of the product are already disclosed as a result if there are problems that are encountered. In that sense, while I understand and appreciate the intent that's put forward in the amendment, we can't support it for those reasons, because it would negate the point of the amendment that we've presented. It would mean that our officials in the Ministry of Labour would not have access to the kinds of details of the ingredients, to the trade secrets, that they need to have. As I say, we feel the public interest continues to be protected by the legislation that exists. This particular amendment isn't necessary in our view.

**The Second Deputy Chair:** Further debate on Mr Grandmaitre's amendment?

**Mr Grandmaitre:** I appreciate the minister's comments, but this amendment really is simply to point out that exceptions are allowed. I would like to get his explanation as to how it negates the previous amendment.

**Hon Mr Silipo:** I said in part it negates the previous amendment. I don't think technically it does, and I don't want to in any way be suggesting that it does. The problem, as I've indicated, is twofold.

First, if this amendment were to pass, the federal Hazardous Materials Information Review Commission would not accept it in the sense that it would not provide us with information we need to be able to deal with the specifics of knowing the details of the ingredients of any potentially hazardous products. The problem is that the negation part I was referring to before would allow, under certain circumstances, a disclosure of trade secrets. That's the potential problem. That may not be the intent, but that's the way it would be able to be read. The problem that causes comes back to our inability therefore, as a result of this amendment, to be able to get the information we need.

We think the point that I believe is behind the amendment, that is, the protection of the public in terms of the disclosure to the public, still is possible and it can happen in terms of the fact that the hazardous properties of the product—that is, if there's a product that's deemed to be hazardous in some way, that hazard is brought to the attention and can be brought to the attention of the workers and the public where that's necessary, but that can be done without disclosing the trade secret, which this amendment would have the potential for allowing to happen, that is, a disclosure of the actual ingredients of the patent and the product. That's the problem with the amendment in the end.

**The Second Deputy Chair:** Further debate on Mr Grandmaitre's motion? Is the pleasure of the House that Mr Grandmaitre's motion carry?

All those in favour will please say “aye.”

All those opposed will please say “nay.”

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negated.

Section 2, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 3 and 4 agreed to.

Bill, as amended, ordered to be reported.

On motion by Miss Martel, the committee of the whole reported one bill with certain amendments.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY  
STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992  
LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS  
CONCERNANT L'ACCÈS À L'INFORMATION  
ET LA PROTECTION DE LA VIE PRIVÉE

Mr Silipo moved third reading of Bill 136, An Act to amend certain Acts relating to Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy / Loi modifiant certaines lois concernant l'accès à l'information et la protection de la vie privée.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Mr Silipo, do you have any comments?

**Hon Tony Silipo (Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet):** I'm pleased to introduce for third reading An Act to amend certain Acts relating to Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy, Bill 136. It provides that a non-disclosure section of the Occupational Health and Safety Act overrides the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. This bill, as amended, will allow the Ministry of Labour to receive confidential trade secret

information about hazardous products from the federal Hazardous Materials Information Review Commission.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Are there any questions or comments on the minister's comments? If not, are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Mr Silipo moves third reading of Bill 136, An Act to amend certain Acts relating to Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

1640

#### POWER CORPORATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

#### LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LA SOCIÉTÉ DE L'ÉLECTRICITÉ

Mr Charlton moved third reading of Bill 118, An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société de l'électricité.

**Hon Brian A. Charlton (Acting Minister of Energy):** It's a pleasure for me to introduce Bill 118 for third reading. Bill 118, as you know, is An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act. In doing so, I'd like to thank the members of the standing committee on resources development for their patient and I think very thorough examination of this piece of legislation. I'd also like to thank all those people across Ontario who made it their business to attend the committee's hearings on Bill 118, because this piece of legislation has in fact profited from their input.

Quite clearly, Bill 118 is the product of a wide-ranging process of consultation that's gone on across this province. In formulating these amendments to the Power Corporation Act, the government promised it would listen to advice, and it has listened. We listened to those who worried that the government's directive power over Ontario Hydro would turn the utility into a vehicle for social and economic programs. That was a line that I think was promoted quite widely by some members of the opposition. That was never the intention, but we changed the bill to eliminate any possible misunderstanding in that respect.

While I'm on that point, I might take a moment to remind members of both opposition parties that in the 1986 select committee on energy report the members of both of the opposition parties, along with the then opposition members representing this party on that select committee, unanimously supported a series of recommendations on the control and accountability of Ontario Hydro, recommendations which are reflected very clearly in this piece of legislation. I think it is important that members search out and learn from the discussions that have gone on in the past when they consider pieces of legislation like Bill 118.

The legislation makes it clear that directives to Hydro will only apply to matters within the utility's mandate as set out in the Power Corporation Act. In fact, Bill 118 brings new clarity to the relationship between Hydro and the government. Under the Power Corporation Act, government direction to Hydro has been subject to a highly complex set of procedures and to a very difficult set of approvals. In order to get anything done at all, past governments have provided direction informally, frequently be-

hind closed doors, with Hydro management. That must, and will, change. The directive power conferred upon the government in Bill 118 creates an open, visible channel for communicating the government's wishes and needs to Hydro. There will be no more closed doors in terms of the government's direction and influence on the operations of Ontario Hydro.

We also heard from a number of people across Ontario who objected to a clause that would have shifted authority for setting the salary of Hydro's chair from cabinet to the Hydro board. Once again, we've listened and we've altered the bill so that authority will remain with the cabinet.

Bill 118 contains changes that will help government to keep an important promise made in the speech from the throne in November 1990. That promise is a new energy direction for the province which, more than ever before, will emphasize the need to control the demand for energy and to reduce our traditional dependence on continually increasing supply. It's important, as we go through the kind of economic restructuring and regrowth that will have to happen over the course of the years ahead, that we do it in a way that is quite different from the past, in a way that will allow Ontario industry and Ontario business to be competitive in Ontario, Canada and the international markets.

There are a number of other important initiatives that Bill 118 will allow the government to proceed with. Reducing the environmental impact of energy production and consumption is also a key component of our new energy directions. At the same time, we realize an equally compelling obligation to ensure that Ontario continues to have a reliable supply of energy at reasonable prices.

The legislation being presented here today for third reading, whether the members across the way like that or not, will make Hydro more responsive to the concerns and priorities of the people of this province, strengthen Hydro's relationship with the government of Ontario, make the relationship between Hydro and the government an open, visible relationship and assert Hydro's responsibility for the effective management of its day-to-day operations. It will also equip Hydro with the means to pursue lower-cost solutions to meeting the province's electrical needs as we move into a much altered and important future.

I'm sure the members opposite will have some comments they wish to make on third reading of this bill, so I'll turn the floor over to them now. Thank you very much, and I commend this piece of legislation to you across the way and to your predecessors who worked with us to bring this piece of legislation forward.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Are there any questions or comments? Are there any other members who wish to participate in the debate?

1650

**Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South):** I want to begin, as well as the minister, by extending my thanks to my fellow members on the committee, who devoted a great deal of time and energy to this issue, and also to extend my thank you to the communities we visited for the gracious hospitality they extended, and by thanking as well the groups who appeared before us.

I was elected in the last election and have not had the opportunity to travel this province in the way I did during the course of the committee travels. I can tell you, Mr Speaker, that it's a grand province. I guess we went as far north as Sioux Lookout and as far south as Windsor. It was a most enjoyable experience, notwithstanding the 4 o'clock in the morning early calls.

The minister made reference to the consultation, and I want to take him up on that point at the outset. The first thing I should make reference to is the degree of consultation that went on before the bill was introduced. We heard from one particular group in connection with that very matter, and that was from Jack MacDonald, president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 1000. This is what he had to say when he appeared before the committee in January:

"CUPE 1000, along with other labour groups, were simply notified of the proposed amendments after all the decisions were made.

"Consultation means involvement in decision-making before the agenda is set. It is clear that, by definition, consultation did not take place with Local 1000 concerning the amendments to the Power Corporation Act. For the record, it makes no difference if other parties are equally ignored. Different behaviour was expected from this government and in this instance it was not forthcoming."

That gives us an idea of the kind of consultation that took place before, but what about the consultation that took place during the course of the committee's work? I think we should as well take a look at that.

It was interesting that when the committee was up in Timmins during the course of the hearings, when myself, my party's Energy critic and the Energy critic for the third party were present in Timmins, at that time Ontario Hydro filed an update to its demand-supply plan, and in that demand-supply plan it made it very clear that in amending its targets for conservation between now and the year 2014 it was going to rely heavily on fuel switching. It make it explicit that such a reliance was in fact premised upon this bill becoming law.

I want to quote from a letter that was put out by Marc Eliesen, chair of the board of directors of Ontario Hydro. He said, "However, more opportunities will come from higher efficiency standards from government and changes in law that will allow Hydro to promote alternative forms of energy where the customer can benefit and where electricity is not the most appropriate form of energy."

"Changes in law that will"—I think "will" is the operative word here. It's not "may" or "perhaps." It's clearly indicated that notwithstanding that this committee was touring the province and consulting the people of Ontario as to how they felt about Bill 118, this government planned to go ahead—and Hydro understood that very clearly—with fuel switching. Again, that gives us some idea of the extent of the sincerity of the consultation that was taking place.

With respect to Bill 118 itself, we've been told that it's being put forward to improve Hydro's accountability to the people of Ontario. There's been talk about doing things through the front door whereas in the past, when the government gave directions to Hydro, they were done through

some kind of back door. We've also been told that Bill 118 will improve the transparency or the openness with which the dealings between the government and Hydro will take place.

We've also been told one thing essentially, that Bill 118 is going to help us to control Hydro's rates, which are of course skyrocketing. Rates went up this year on average 11.8%. The proposed average rate increase for 1993 is 8.6%, and it's important to keep in mind that inflation at the present time is something under 2%. The chairman of Ontario Hydro has told us that rates will go up during the course of the next three years by 44%.

I will speak further on the rates matter in a moment, but right now I want to talk a little bit about Hydro. This government is attempting of course to wrestle with Hydro. That has been a historical struggle, I guess, in the more recent history of this Legislature. The problems associated with Ontario Hydro are fairly significant and somewhat numerous.

In the past Hydro has been referred to as a monolith, a runaway train, a Goliath and an impregnable fortress, and the problems associated with it have ranged from the matter of rates—I guess the problems that are connected with the corporation having some 30,000 employees who are paid on average \$65,000. It has \$43 billion in assets. Its annual revenue exceeds \$7 billion. It has a debt of some \$35 billion, a very significant debt. It has 3.5 million customers.

It has been said that it's the largest construction company in Canada, possibly North America. It controls some of the most sophisticated technology available at the present time, the nuclear technology. It has a monopoly and thus it is sheltered from the benefits which normally accrue from competition, but there have been some sound policy reasons in the past for that.

It has been accused of having an affinity for megaprojects and, more recently, we have learned that its staff has the worst productivity ratio in North America. Hydro's revenue per employee, which is a common measure of productivity, was \$178,000 in 1990. That's the latest year for which that is available and is the result of information filed recently with the Ontario Energy Board—\$178,000 per employee.

The next worst major utility listed was Duke Power, and that has a \$222,000 revenue per employee, and the average of the 12 utilities with which it was compared in North America was \$375,000 per employee. So our people are earning \$178,000 best—I'm sorry, the average is \$375,000 and the very best was \$593,000.

I want to come back to the issue of rates for a moment. The issue of Ontario Hydro and the rates it charges is a very significant problem because it's connected, of course, with—utility rates being charged by Hydro are something that virtually everyone in the province pays for either directly or indirectly. You can't buy a chocolate bar and not pay for some component of the cost which is attributable to electricity.

Energy Probe, a group which follows these matters very closely, has told us recently that Ontario Hydro rates are going to soon exceed the rates being charged in the United States, according to a study which they recently completed.

I want to quote from a press release of theirs dated January 7, 1992. It says:

"In 1985, the average US household paid \$74.92 a month for electricity, almost twice the \$38.81 a Toronto household paid for the same amount of power. On January 1, 1992, that enormous gap had shrunk to under \$8 a month. While the American's average bill is \$81.18, only \$6.26 more than in 1985, a Torontonians consuming the identical amount of power will be paying \$73.92. By January 1, 1993, the gap will have become a negligible 66 cents and by January 1, 1994, the Americans will have a \$7 a month advantage, paying \$92.18 to our \$99.86."

The Financial Times of Canada had an article—it appears to be March 27, 1992—and the title of the article was "Ontario Hydro: The Worst Is Yet To Come." Interestingly enough, in the article they quote Mitch Rothman, the chief economist for Ontario Hydro:

"In the past five years electricity prices in Ontario have gone from tipping the scales in favour of locating in Ontario to tipping the scales against locating in Ontario," he concedes. Rothman explains: "You can cut a better deal for electricity for particular plant locations in many jurisdictions in the US such as in Kentucky or Tennessee. It's one of the reasons General Motors put its Saturn plant in Tennessee."

It goes on to provide as follows as well:

"Officially, Ontario Hydro insists there will be no doubling of prices in this decade, but Rothman, the utility's own chief number cruncher, doubts that. 'The current internal forecast is not a doubling of prices in the 1990s,' he says, 'but my own guess is that in nominal terms it wouldn't surprise me.'"

So we have confirmation from, I guess, the highest sources internal to Ontario Hydro that our rates are going to continue to rise and rise rather substantially.

1700

We heard, of course, from a number of presenters during the course of our travels and while the committee sat here in Toronto, and there have been a number of solutions put forward to help us tame the Hydro beast. One proposal was that we simply give the Ontario Energy Board more teeth. The Ontario Energy Board has been known as the chihuahua of watchdogs. In fact, it has very little power in terms of controlling rates. It provides us with recommendations, but at the end of the day it's Hydro which really has the ultimate authority in setting those rates.

It's also been proposed by others, including my friends in the third party, that what we should be doing with Ontario Hydro is bringing the influence of the private sector, the private market, the competition, to bear. Those people espousing that particular approach argue that there is only one force of sufficient strength to bring Hydro to heel, and that is the force of the marketplace.

Others from whom we've heard have said that what we should be doing is giving more power to the public utility commissions and those elected commissioners who at present, although they represent 75% of Ontario's hydro ratepayers, only make up about 12% of the representation on the board of directors. I guess there's something to be said for that, for giving perhaps more authority to those people who are elected to hold public office. There's nothing

that quite concentrates the mind like having to contend with an electorate and be accountable to it.

Of course, the other proposal was that we should give more power over Ontario Hydro to the Legislature. I think that approach also has a great deal to commend itself to us, but we have to ensure that if we're going to proceed in that fashion we have in place some mechanism to prevent the kind of abuse that can come from a government doing something for taxpayers at the expense of ratepayers. I think one of the underlying deficiencies that becomes glaring as you proceed through a reading of the bill is that it fails to make the distinction between taxpayers and ratepayers, which is of vital importance.

I talked earlier about some of the problems associated with Hydro, but we shouldn't get carried away with this. It's become, I think, almost fashionable today to criticize Hydro. It has played a tremendous role in the history of this province. The contribution to our quality of life is of course outstanding, and we simply cannot imagine life in this province today without electricity.

I can recall the member for Lanark-Renfrew, who is also the Energy critic for the third party, telling me something one time during the course of our committee hearings. It was a story which I found very insightful and which helped us to understand the role Hydro has played. With his consent I'll tell it again.

On Christmas Eve in 1948, my colleague found himself, as an employee of Ontario Hydro, in a small Ontario town. His purpose in being there was to assist in bringing a hydro line into that town, a town which had never been supplied with electricity prior to that time.

Now, the local folk were obviously in a very excited state, and they had, in anticipation of the electricity coming through, gone out and purchased a set of Christmas lights. You can just imagine the sense of wonder on the faces of the townsfolk, young and old alike, when the switch was thrown and the coloured lights lit up. That was obviously a very good thing. Hydro has done all kinds of good things during the course of the history of this province. As I think you know, it's so easy to lose sight of that.

They've helped us over time to light our farmhouses, to heat our barns, to run our factories, to heat our homes, to run our life-sustaining medical equipment and much, much more. But society is changing, and so are our demands for Ontario Hydro. Hydro is not without some fault in failing to keep up with our expectations for leadership in energy conservation, but neither are we without fault. I think what's critical for us to remember is that we are Hydro and Hydro is us. Those 30,000 Ontarians who work for Ontario Hydro are members of our population, and they haven't been pumped out of some infernal nether region to wreak havoc on the province. It reminds me of what Pogo was quoted as saying: "I have seen the enemy and he is us."

It's only been very recently in our history that the concepts of conservation and environmentalism have become firmly embedded in the public consciousness. Hydro has perhaps been slower than the rest of us—not "perhaps"; it has definitely been slower than the rest of us to catch on to these trends, but that's because it's large, it's bureaucratic,

it lacks the flexibility, the sensitivity to adapt quickly to change. But by and large the employees of Hydro, I feel, are anxious to keep up with Ontario's changing needs in conservation.

Perhaps the real question we should be asking ourselves is, can Hydro in its present form do what Ontario needs? I wouldn't mind if the government were to conduct some kind of special review of Hydro to determine if today Hydro in its present form really can continue to serve Ontario's needs in the best way possible.

Hydro presents a tremendous challenge to the government, and it's my opinion that the government does not meet that challenge through Bill 118. Instead of the ratepayers suffering from Hydro now, the Hydro tiger, they're going to be made to suffer from a tiger we can perhaps refer to as being tamed by government but as acting under the directions of the government. Whether we are mauled by a tiger that's wild or mauled by a tiger that's tame and acting under the instructions of its master makes no difference to the ratepayers, because a mauling is a mauling is a mauling.

I want to look at some of the specifics of the bill now. One of the first things the bill does is that it changes the number of directors. It proposes that we increase that number from 14 to 18 and we add to that the deputy minister. I have no objections to adding the deputy minister; I think he'll make an excellent link, a conduit between the minister and a board of directors.

You know, it's become rather fashionable of late to add to various boards and agencies an ever-increasing number of people in order to ensure that we bring to bear the life experience of different groups representing different sectors in society. By and large that is a good thing and I agree with that. But it has its limitations, and keeping in mind my earlier description of Ontario Hydro and the complexities that are inherent in that kind of operation, I think what we have to do is not be so much looking to increasing the numbers of people who are going to sit on the board as ensuring that those people who sit on there are people who possess the necessary qualities to gain an understanding of the issues and then hopefully to address those issues in a helpful manner.

I told this story in committee, but I think it bears repetition. I can recall that one time when I was articling, my principal, the lawyer who was in charge of me, asked that I go down to the holding cells and meet with a potential client who wished to retain him. My boss told me to go down there and speak with him in French because my boss did not speak French and he was concerned that he would not be able to properly represent this particular person because of the language barrier. So I went down and discussed this with the person who was in the holding cell and I explained to him that my boss felt uncomfortable with taking him on as a client, and I can recall what he said, and this was all in French: "I don't care if your boss is a man; I don't care if your boss is a woman. I don't care if your boss speaks French or speaks English. I believe your boss is a good lawyer and that's why I want him."

Like all analogies, that has limitations, but I think it has some application to the kind of people we have to look to if we're going to ensure that we have qualified people sitting on the board of directors.

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During the course of our committee hearings there was no empirical evidence advanced to show that by putting four more people on the board we're going to make Hydro run more efficiently, more effectively. The public utility commissioners, as I indicated earlier, have put forward the idea that, as they represent 75% of Hydro's ratepayers and occupy only 12% of the seats on the board, perhaps they should be given a greater number of seats. The members of the third party put that forward by way of an amendment, and that was defeated.

One of the things I noticed as well, when we were discussing this subject in committee, was that it was not unusual to see that those who were in favour of adding four more seats were often looking for representation for members of their own group.

The next issue I want to deal with is the amendment to the Power Corporation Act as made through Bill 118, where the bill makes the chair the chief executive officer of Hydro. We understand that originally the president was the chief executive officer. The president was elected by the board of directors. The chairman has been a political appointment and now the bill proposes that the chair be made the chief executive officer. So if we make the chair a political appointment, by virtue of that the chief executive officer is also a political appointment.

There are a couple of problems with doing that, both worth mentioning. First of all, when we make the chair the CEO, the CEO will likely change as governments change. If you were to go to any large corporation—if you were able to find a corporation as large as Ontario Hydro—and tell the shareholders that the chief executive officer is going to change every time the government changes, I think you would have a great deal of difficulty making the shareholders believe that was a good thing for the corporation. From speaking with directors on the board, I have been told that it takes two to three years to gain an understanding of what is truly going on inside Ontario Hydro. Governments can change shortly, within three or four years. As a result, the experience gained during the course of their limited tenure will all be for naught.

The other aspect of this business of making the chair the chief executive officer is one of conflict, which we're going to have pay some attention to. I guess the question is, how can we expect the chief executive officer to object to a policy that would cause harm to the interests of the ratepayers? On the one hand you have this individual acting in the capacity of chair, a political appointee representing the government, receiving instructions of a policy nature, and on the other hand this same person is attempting to run the corporation and protect the interests of ratepayers. It is simply impossible to have to deal with that kind of a conflict. The best way for us to deal with it, of course, is to avoid it and to ensure that it simply cannot arise. Again, it points out that the government is having difficulty, to my mind, understanding the distinction between ratepayers and taxpayers and the different obligations owed to each group.

One of the more controversial aspects of Bill 118 has to do with policy directives. Originally, as the minister indicated a few moments ago, there was no restriction

placed on the kinds of directions and the kinds of orders the government could issue to Ontario Hydro. You've got to wonder about the kind of thinking or lack of thinking that went into that, where Hydro could be told to do absolutely anything. In any event, they backed away on that and they've made the proper amendment.

I guess the question that remains is, can we take comfort in that? Can the ratepayers now take comfort knowing that the government will never tell Hydro to do anything that would have Hydro act outside its traditional, historical mandate of providing power to the people at cost? My answer to that question is no and it's no because of the track record this government has already established for itself, in dealing through a policy directive, with what it did at Elliot Lake.

I have a copy of the regulation made under the Power Corporation Act dealing with Elliot Lake. Essentially what this required Ontario Hydro to do was spend \$225 million when the board of directors had indicated this was not in the best interests of the corporation. In Elliot Lake, Hydro was told to pay \$160 million more for uranium, and that was \$160 million higher than the market price. In addition, it was to kick in \$65 million to the northern Ontario heritage fund, and those funds were to be used for job training, for reducing the debt of the municipality and for diversifying the economies of the regions.

Those, of course, were all good causes. There's no doubt whatsoever in the minds of anyone in this House, to my knowledge, that the good people of Elliot Lake needed help in a bad way. But those causes had nothing to do with power at cost, not by any objective standard.

When this government says, "Don't worry, folks; we agree to be bound by Hydro's mandate of providing power at cost," that offers no comfort to the ratepayers. What we have been saying in the past, just to be perfectly clear in this, is that government, not Ontario Hydro, through the general revenues, owes an obligation to the people of Elliot Lake.

If I look at the order in council that was signed by the then Minister of Energy, Jenny Carter, it provides, interestingly enough, that Ontario Hydro's participation in this program, as it was called, is in the best interests of the people of Ontario "and is deemed to be in the best interests of the corporation."

A deeming provision is a very powerful provision, because it makes something that may not be so, so. Whether something is in fact in the best interests of the corporation is another question. This says it's going to be in the best interests of the corporation.

The third provision in that same order in council dated June 6, 1991, provides that "the officers and directors of the corporation who exercise their discretion in compliance with the policies set out herein will be saved, harmless and indemnified, jointly and severally, from and against any and all liability incurred or arising from such exercise."

What the government is telling the board of directors here is: "Look, we know you're having problems with this and you've told us you do not feel this is in the best interests of the ratepayers, the people to whom in law you are accountable. We're going to make a deal with you. We're going to let you off the hook. As long as you go

along with this and you follow our policy in this regard, you will not be able to be sued. We're going to give you a special shelter under which you will have protection from legal liability."

It's also significant that at the time the statement was made in this House it was not made by the Minister of Energy, even though it dealt with spending Hydro revenues and not general revenues. It was made by the Minister of Northern Development. I think that's somewhat symbolic of how this government is confusing. It's not distinguishing between Hydro money and general revenues. It's not distinguishing between obligations owed to taxpayers and obligations owed to ratepayers.

The question is, how will this government use its directive power? I think the facts have been established here. In this case, it issued a directive to Hydro. This directive was not discussed in caucus; it was not debated in the House. When this government talks about openness and transparency and going through the front door, this gives you an idea of what we're looking at in practice, what we can expect in the future through Bill 118. There was no such discussion in caucus and there was no such debate in this House.

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Hydro's board of directors felt it was wrong and they demanded protection from lawsuits, as the deal was not in the interests of ratepayers. The \$225 million that was spent by Ontario Hydro should rightly have been borne by taxpayers and added to the deficit, not borne by the ratepayers.

There was some discussion during the course of the committee as to the spin the government was putting on the Elliot Lake deal, that it was saving Ontario Hydro \$1.4 billion. The facts are that there were no savings made at all. There was a net cost of \$225 million. Ontario Hydro had the option to get out of the contract in 1993. The government told Ontario Hydro: "No, you're not getting out of it. What you're going to do is go ahead and extend it for three years. You're going to spend an additional sum for uranium, even though you'll be paying much more than you would on the open market, and you're going to be paying \$65 million to the northern Ontario heritage fund."

**Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs):** Does Mike Brown agree with this?

**Mr McGuinty:** Absolutely.

This works out to more than \$400,000 for each of the 595 jobs saved, even though these jobs will only last three more years. Again, to make it perfectly clear, in case anyone in Elliot Lake should misunderstand my meaning, those people are entitled to some assistance, but not from Hydro's ratepayers; from taxpayers and through general revenue.

This has a ripple effect when Hydro spends that kind of money and it ends up reflected in the rates that are being paid by its ratepayers. Inco, in its submission to the standing committee on January 15, told us that the recent Elliot Lake and Spruce Falls transactions were going to cost them, by their estimation, \$700,000 in 1992. They have an electricity

bill of \$74 million a year, but that's an additional \$700,000 which they rightfully should not have had to pay.

Just to bring it down to a more basic level, I'm going to paint a little picture of the pensioner living on a fixed income. That pensioner is being crushed under the burden of property taxes, which are going up to the point where that pensioner may very well have to sell his home. That pensioner pays income tax and pays for utilities, including hydro, but when you pay your income tax, that's a function of your income. If you're making a little, then as a general rule you're paying a little income tax.

If a government decides for political purposes to use Hydro to meet what is properly a government expense, and it doesn't want to use general revenues because there's a recession, and it's concerned with the political fallout of raising the deficit, what I want as a pensioner is for my Hydro directors, the only people who are accountable to me in law, to stop this from happening. What Bill 118 does is remove my safety valve, so to speak. It says that my directors will stay out of the hot seat as long as they do as they're told by the government. The bill exempts them from liability whenever they follow government policy. So what we have is an exception to the general rule that he who pays the piper calls the tune, because in these circumstances, the piper is Hydro and the ratepayers are paying but the person calling the tune is the government. That is simply not fair.

The other aspect which got a lot of play during the course of the hearings dealt with the energy conservation programs that Hydro will now be permitted to undertake. In fact, what Hydro is going to be allowed to do here is to extend its mandate effectively beyond the conservation of electricity to the conservation of all forms of energy. The question, of course, that begs itself is, why aren't we letting the gas utilities make inroads in the conserving of natural gas, and the same with the people in the fuel oil business?

In any event, this government sees fit to use Ontario Hydro as a tool to promote a conservation program for all forms of energy. I think that's a mistake. There should be a more comprehensive energy policy from the government dealing with other forms of energy. But in any event, that's what Bill 118 tells us.

Fuel substitution: Bill 118 is going to allow Ontario Hydro to promote fuel substitution. It's going to allow Ontario Hydro to subsidize someone to switch from electricity to another form of energy to heat his home or building. The obvious alternative sources are oil, gas and wood. There's no doubt whatsoever; we heard from all kinds of experts who appeared before the committee that environmentally it is a good thing. It is simply a very inefficient use of electricity to heat a home. We received comparisons as to the yearly carbon dioxide emissions and the emissions for sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. As I was saying, there's no doubt whatsoever that it's simply far better for the environment that we heat with oil, gas or wood.

What concerns me, though, is that although the minister has been telling us there's an environmental advantage, the fact of the matter is that at the end of the day there's going to be a cost disadvantage in terms of Hydro rates generally. I want to say this very directly: The solution this

government is putting forward as its response to the problem of rising rates is conservation. I want to make it perfectly clear that, initially at least, when we conserve our rates are going to go up. Yes, in Ontario in 1992, when we are struggling in our province and the people are struggling under the weight of a recession, the government's policy of conservation is going to cause rates to go up, at least initially.

What bothers me is that the minister has never made this fact clear to the people of Ontario. I want to quote from a media package that was put out in Thunder Bay on the first day of the committee hearings outside Toronto. On page 5, in response to the question, "What are the benefits of enabling Hydro to encourage fuel substitution?" the answer is that there are three consequences, essentially. I'm paraphrasing here. First of all, it's going to allow us to lower our heating costs for customers; second, it's going to provide us with increased environmental protection and, third, it's going to defer the need for large central generating facilities, thereby ensuring considerable savings for Ontario Hydro.

But what the minister left out, and what is of tremendous importance to people desperately trying to cope with the recession, is that there's a fourth consequence to conservation—and the form of that of course is fuel substitution—and that is that initially the rates are going to go up.

Just today in the Ottawa Citizen there was an article which indicated that Ontario Hydro has just filed documents with the Ontario Energy Board at the hearing that is just beginning that will be considering the rates for 1993, telling us that the utility's conservation plans are going to cost \$1.9 billion over the next four years. That's \$1.9 billion even after electricity savings in those years are taken into account.

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The article provides as follows:

"According to the Hydro forecast, the conservation programs are expected to cost \$325 million this year, \$400 million in 1993, \$525 million in 1994 and \$675 million in 1995. 'The figures reflect the cost of the conservation programs minus the savings in the particular year,' Russell said." "Russell" refers to Ian Russell, the director of Hydro's corporate financial planning.

I think what has been brought to light, and only in the last few days through filings with the Ontario Energy Board by Ontario Hydro, is that the conservation policies of this government are going to cause rates to increase. The public utility commissions have been telling us this for some time. It only makes sense that if you cut back on sales, if you lower your sales, you've still got to pay for your fixed costs.

The point I'm trying to make is that the government has an obligation to ensure that it tells the people of this province that, as a result of its response to increasing rates, it's promoting conservation, and the initial effect of conservation will be to cause those rates to increase even further.

One of the interesting things we learned during the course of the committee hearings was that there have been a number of industries in the province which have improved their overall energy efficiency by increasing the amount of electricity they use. That would seem initially

not to make sense, but I guess what I'm leading to here is that one of the problems with Bill 118 is that it focuses on electricity use only instead of overall energy use.

As I read it, Bill 118 would not permit Ontario Hydro to promote switching me, for instance, to a more efficient means of using electricity. We know that the most efficient means we can use to heat a home is through a ground-source heat pump, but what we're going to be doing through Bill 118 is paying people to switch, for instance, to natural gas and not providing them with the option to go with the most energy-efficient means available to them.

We heard from Quebec and Ontario Paper Co, which appeared before the committee on January 30, 1992. They confirmed this. They said, "As a result, the Thorold mill was rebuilt in the early 1980s, resulting in the mill now being one of the lowest-cost mills in Canada, but our electrical consumption per tonne increased 30% after the rebuild." Electricity costs have gone up, notwithstanding that overall energy efficiency has gone up as well.

We also heard from ICI Canada, formerly known as C-I-L, which appeared before us in Guelph on January 29. There they indicated that the ICI Courtright ammonia plant had reduced its energy usage per tonne of ammonia by over 30% in the last decade by replacing an old-technology plant by a new-technology plant.

They said that the new plant was listed in a recent study commissioned by Energy, Mines and Resources Canada as the number one most efficient ammonia plant in Canada. In fact, this plant is the most efficient in North America. But the new Courtright plant achieved high energy efficiency by reducing its natural gas needs and increasing its electricity consumption several times over in comparison to the older, less energy-efficient plant. A deficiency within Bill 118, as I see it, is that it fails to recognize that energy efficiency can in fact be brought about through increasing use of electricity.

One of the things we learned from meeting with so many groups is that there is a sense of scepticism in the public, I think generally—scepticism relating to governments and Hydro telling us how to heat our homes. You may recall, Mr Speaker, there was a time—I'm not old enough to remember this—when people heated their homes by oil. The prices at that time of course began to rise dramatically and the federal government decided in its wisdom that it was going to implement an off-oil program and it was going to provide subsidies to people to switch off of oil, because of course at the time electricity was cheaper and there was a tremendous concern with the reliability of supply of fuel oil.

It's interesting to note that when they put that program in place, they decided it was to be funded from general revenues; it would be funded by all taxpayers and not by a select groups of taxpayers, ie, ratepayers. They went ahead with that program to switch off oil, and at the time Ontario Hydro had its campaign of "Living better electrically." So people were drawn from oil to electricity.

People who have been on the electricity are now understanding that the cost of electricity is going up. They've learned as well that it's better for the environment that they switch back to oil or gas. So now Hydro will be offering to

subsidize me to switch back to oil or gas. We started off on oil or gas, got paid to go to electricity, and now we're going to get paid to go back to gas or oil, and of course there are no guarantees being offered with respect to the prices of natural gas in the future, or oil for that matter, or with respect to supply.

Hydro has a lengthy history of having difficulty in predicting the future with respect to costs and demand. I guess the sentiment I'm trying to convey, which was conveyed to the committee over the course of our hearings, is that there is a great deal of mistrust with respect to the government and Hydro telling people that they should be switching from one source of fuel for heating to another.

We have to look of course at the equity issue involved in this. The costs for switching people off hydro are going to be borne by all ratepayers and not solely by those ratepayers who are making the switch. As I indicated earlier, the net result is going to be that rates are going to go up, at least initially, for all ratepayers.

The equity aspect of it is this: Many people do not have access to natural gas, if I can focus on natural gas for a moment as our alternative fuel; they will not, notwithstanding the full implications of this bill, have access to natural gas. Many people do not want to switch to natural gas—we heard from some people who are not comfortable with having natural gas in the home—and many people have already switched to natural gas and they will not have the benefit of the subsidies which may come about as a result of Bill 118.

Although all those people will have to pay others to obtain the benefits of the reduced heating costs, they're going to see their rates go up accordingly. The question of course is, is this fair? Is it fair that people living in Sioux Lookout, for instance, who do not have access to natural gas and who told us that the cost of oil up there is about the same as the cost of electricity, are going to see their rates increase in order to subsidize me, for instance, in Ottawa to switch from electricity to heat my home to oil or gas? I say it is not fair. The bill has not addressed that inequity.

One of the questions that was raised in fact by some of the public utility commissions is, why are we not looking to those who stand to immediately and undoubtedly benefit from the switching? Why aren't we having those people foot the bill? By that I mean of course the natural gas utilities and the oil companies.

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It's rather ironic that under the law as it stands today the Ontario Energy Board requires that, if a natural gas utility is to extend its pipeline into a particular community, a feasibility test be met. What that means essentially is that it cannot saddle its existing rate base with a cost of that expansion; that expansion must be absorbed by the new ratepayers.

What Bill 118 does is skirt around this, and it effectively provides that electricity ratepayers are going to subsidize this expansion so that what it could not do under the law and the regulations which the Ontario Energy Board oversees it's now going to be able to do through Bill 118.

We also heard from several groups that made the argument to the effect that market forces are working. The natural gas utilities told us over and over again that people are switching to natural gas in ever-increasing numbers because of the obvious economic advantages, and of course as well because of the fact that people are gaining a better understanding of the fact that it is simply better for the environment to heat with natural gas than it is to heat with electricity.

I'm just going to quote from Consumers' Gas, which appeared before the committee on January 16. We heard from the regional sales manager of the eastern region, Consumers' Gas in Ottawa. He said the following: "Since 1973, approximately 60,000 customer additions have been captured in eastern Ontario from other fuels." He goes on to provide, "Our rate of growth in eastern Ontario is now approximately 8,000 customers per year," who are making the switch without benefit of subsidies. He goes on to say: "...and recently, there has been a noticeable increase in the capture rate and the requests for conversion from electricity to natural gas. Much of this may be attributed to the difference between natural gas and electricity prices and, in particular, some concern by electricity customers about the prospects of double-digit rate hikes over the next few years to pay for existing generating facilities."

Ottawa Hydro appeared before us in January 1992. Mr Carl Kropp, the general manager and chief engineer of Ottawa Hydro, told us: "Market forces are already acting strongly in favour of fuel substitution without incentives. In 1991, Ottawa Hydro, in its rental program, lost 1,354 hot water tanks to gas, up from 788 conversions" in 1990.

My calculations show that for the conversion of space heating from electricity to gas, the customer will benefit after four years without incentives. Already consumers are reacting and making the change, so why does the minister leave the impression that Ontario Hydro must pay incentives? Another question: Why should Hydro pay the incentives? The gas utility or the oil company will also see a benefit to increase sales. Should the gas utility or the oil company not pay all or at least some of the incentives if in fact incentive is to be given? Is this the reason that the government could more easily control Hydro? These are all very good questions and they are not properly addressed in Bill 118.

I think there is perhaps something more subtle that Bill 118 is telling the population, and we should not lose sight of that or fail to be sensitive to it, and that is, what kind of opinion do we hold of our population if we assume that, notwithstanding the economic advantages and the environmental advantages to switching off of electricity, we don't

believe our population will respond to that and we're going to have to pay them to do it?

In fact, the evidence is to the contrary. People have been switching from electricity to other forms of fuel to heat in ever-increasing numbers. Notwithstanding that, this bill is saying, "No, we are going to proceed with a program by which it is going to pay people to continue to do what they're already doing." The question arises as to just how cost-effective that kind of—

**The Deputy Speaker:** Would you please resume your seat. I just want to remind the House that we had unanimous consent to have a vote on third reading on Bill 121. Call in the members. This will be a 30-minute bell.

1753

#### RENT CONTROL ACT, 1992

#### LOI DE 1992 SUR LE CONTRÔLE DES LOYERS

The House divided on Ms Gigantes's motion for third reading of Bill 121, An Act to revise the Law related to Residential Rent Regulation, which was agreed to on the following vote.

#### Ayes—60

Allen, Boyd, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Huget, Jamison, Johnson, Klopp, Kormos, Lankin, Laughren, Lessard, Mackenzie, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Marchese, Martel, Martin;

Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), North, O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Philip (Etobicoke-Rexdale), Pilkey, Pouliot, Rizzo, Silipo, Sutherland, Ward (Brantford), Ward (Don Mills), Wark-Martyn, Waters, Wessinger, White, Wildman, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman, Wood.

#### Nays—34

Arnott, Beer, Brown, Carr, Cleary, Conway, Cousens, Daigeler, Eddy, Elston, Eves, Fawcett, Grandmaître, Harris, Henderson, Jackson, Jordan, Mahoney, Marland, McClelland, McGuinty, McLean, Miclash, O'Neill (Quinte), O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poirier, Poole, Sola, Stockwell, Sullivan, Tilson, Turnbull, Wilson (Simcoe West).

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** It being close to 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until 1:30 of the clock tomorrow afternoon.

The House adjourned at 1758.

#### ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
28	979	2	11	Maurice Strong is heading up the Earth Summit, a former

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Phillip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaitre, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessinger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	<b>Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	<b>Cooke, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	<b>Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

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Perruzza, David Ramsay, Gregory S. Sorbara  
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**Finance and economic affairs/  
Finances et affaires économiques**

Chair/Président: Ron Hansen  
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Norm Jamison, Monte Kwinter, Gerry Phillips, Norman W. Sterling,  
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**General government/Affaires gouvernementales**

Chair/Président: Michael A. Brown  
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Margaret H. Harrington, Randy R. Hope, George Mammoliti, Rosario  
Marchese, Bill Murdoch, Dianne Poole, John Sola  
Clerk/Greffière: Deborah Deller

**Government agencies/Organismes gouvernementaux**

Chair/Président: Robert W. Runciman  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Allan K. McLean  
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Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Bernard C. Grandmaître, Rosario  
Marchese, Chris Stockwell, Daniel Waters, Jim Wiseman  
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

**Legislative Assembly/Assemblée législative**

Chair/Président: Noel Duignan  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mike Farnan  
Members/Membres: Mike Cooper, Paul R. Johnson, Margaret Marland,  
Irene Mathyssen, Carman McClelland, Gord Mills, Gilles E. Morin,  
Stephen Owens, Barbara Sullivan, Noble Villeneuve  
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

**Ombudsman/Ombudsman**

Chair/Président: Mark Morrow  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Christel Haeck  
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Dennis Drainville, Noel Duignan,  
D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Miclash, Bill Murdoch,  
Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Elizabeth Witmer  
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

**Public accounts/Comptes publics**

Chair/Président: Remo Mancini  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Joseph Cordiano  
Members/Membres: Robert V. Callahan, W. Donald Cousens, Noel  
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Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

**Regulations and private bills/  
Règlements et projets de loi privés**

Chair/Président: Drummond White  
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Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

**Resources development/Développement des ressources**

Chair/Président: Peter Kormos  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Daniel Waters  
Members/Membres: Sean G. Conway, George Dadamo, Bob Huget,  
W. Leo Jordan, Paul Klopp, Dalton J.P. McGuinty, Sharon Murdock,  
Steven Offer, David Turnbull, Len Wood  
Clerk/Greffier: Harold Brown

**Social development/Affaires sociales**

Chair/Président: Charles Beer  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler  
Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin,  
Irene Mathyssen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White,  
Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer  
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

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**Parliamentary precinct/Enceinte parlementaire**

Co-Chair/Coprésident: David Warner  
Co-Chair/Coprésident: Noel Duignan  
Members/Membres: Dianne Cunningham, Remo Mancini,  
Kimble Sutherland  
Clerk/Greffier: Smirle Forsyth





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## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Wednesday 3 June 1992

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Mercredi 3 juin 1992

Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers



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Effective with the opening of the Second Session of the 35th Parliament, Hansard issues and pages are numbered according to session, rather than calendar year as before. Committee reports likewise are numbered from the first sitting of each committee in this parliamentary session.

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### **Table des matières**

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### **Renseignements sur l'Index**

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 3 June 1992

The House met at 1332.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### JOBS ONTARIO TRAINING FUND

**Mr John C. Cleary (Cornwall):** It is with much concern that I note the devastation that the recent withdrawal of the federal government's unemployment benefits section 26 program has caused many constituents in my riding. I cannot emphasize enough what a crippling blow it is for the section 26 recipients to have not only their benefits taken away but also their chances for returning to school and receiving retraining ripped from under them.

I firmly believe that people are this province's number one resource. Obviously then, investing in training and skills development is one of the best investments this province can make. So it is with great interest that I have noted the Minister of Skills Development's recent Jobs Ontario training fund. The description for the program reads "a jobs and training fund to help employers hire and train unemployed workers."

It is clear that this is an ideal response to the difficulties experienced by over 400 Cornwall-area adults who have suffered the section 26 cutbacks, as well as many other unemployed adults in my riding. In conclusion, I must insist that the Minister of Skills Development and the Premier of Ontario provide my constituents with a full opportunity to renew and expand their skills through the Jobs Ontario strategy.

### EDUCATION FINANCING

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** Last week the Minister of Education furtively introduced Bill 20, which will require all school boards to offer junior kindergarten after August 31, 1994. He did not even have the courage to make a ministerial statement about the bill. No wonder, when the Peel Board of Education, Canada's largest public school board, has had to cancel its junior kindergarten program because of a budgetary shortfall. Six thousand students will be affected, while 190 positions have been eliminated.

The Minister of Education had the nerve to call the Peel Board of Education irresponsible for cutting junior kindergarten, even though many of the board's problems stem directly from actions by the NDP socialist government. Last year, the NDP gave civil servants a 5.8% wage hike which set a trend for other contracts, including those with teachers in Peel. Then the Bob Rae government gave school boards only a 1% increase in transfer payments this year. The Peel board cannot meet its contractual obligations without cutting programs and staff.

Two months ago, I wrote to the minister urging him to help the Peel board solve its problems, but I have yet to receive a reply. I assume that Bill 20 is his response. He is telling school boards they must provide junior kindergarten

and if they can't afford it, too bad—make cuts in other areas or hike property taxes.

When will this NDP government learn that it must not mandate new programs in schools without providing the funds? Property taxpayers cannot afford higher taxes. Tragically, that means the children, the future of our province, will suffer major cuts in their education.

### OPEN HOMES CANADA

**Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex):** Last April I reported to the House that a group of community leaders from the city of London had proposed a project called Open Homes Canada. Open Homes Canada is a Canada-wide exchange to foster unity and goodwill. It's a chance for one Canadian to visit with another Canadian and rediscover how much we have in common, what good friends and neighbours we have in this nation, in each other and how important it is for all of us to extend the hand of friendship and tolerance to maintain that strength.

I'm pleased to announce the official launch of Open Homes Canada. Londoners will be opening their homes to receive other Canadians for a four-day visit on the civic holiday weekend of August 1. This exchange will bring people together to share their homes, interests and activities and to understand each other better. This effort is premised on the assumption that government alone cannot solve the current problems facing the country today and that ordinary people from all walks of life have a crucial role to play in preserving Canada.

I know the people in the London area are committed to Open Homes Canada and will open their homes to others. I challenge all to get involved and adopt this program in your own communities. Be a part of Open Homes Canada. A renewed Canada may be only a weekend away.

### MINING INDUSTRY

**Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora):** This week is Mining Week in Ontario and most know that mining has an impact on the Ontario economy well beyond its mineral worth. All told, mining activity and its spinoffs stimulate \$20 billion worth of economic activity resulting in some 212,000 jobs in Ontario.

The recession has taken its toll on the mining industry. The Ontario industry is suffering from a crisis of confidence. It has been shaken by job losses as companies are unable to deal with the declining mineral prices and the rising production costs. Potential mining projects are shelved due to the uncertainty about rules and regulations.

The government talks about casino gambling for Ontario. What they forget is that Ontario is already home to a major game of chance; it's called mining. On the average, only one in 1,000 exploration prospects evolves into a producing mine. Before a base metal mine begins its production stage, it is preceded by eight years of exploration and two years of pre-production development activity.

These are the facts which every minister of this government should be aware of when preparing and considering legislation at the cabinet table. The government must work with the industry, not only to deal with the economic recession but to ensure a future for mining in Ontario. This will be accomplished through a positive climate of investment in which companies and investors can clearly see where their investments are heading.

The Ontario Mining Association will be holding its Meet the Miners reception at Stop 33 in Sutton Place this evening from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. I encourage all members of the Legislature to take the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the concerns of this industry.

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#### DRIVER EXAMINATIONS FOR SENIORS

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** My statement is directed to the Minister of Transportation and the minister responsible for seniors' issues.

I find it rather ironic that the minister responsible for seniors' issues is taking such great pains and expense to designate and promote the month of June as Seniors' Month in Ontario, while her colleague the Minister of Transportation continues a discriminatory policy that requires seniors over the age of 70 to undergo automatic driver's licence testing in the event of an accident, regardless of the circumstances.

On one hand, we have a minister telling us that seniors play an important role in society. She tells us that seniors built this province and gave us our heritage, culture and traditions. On the other hand, we have a minister who continues to apply a policy that clearly discriminates against seniors within our society. It is a policy without any foundation or relation to competence, negligence, risk or driving record; it simply focuses on age as the only relevant factor.

Driver's licence testing following an accident certainly could be considered a prudent measure for ensuring public safety but only on the provision that such testing is restricted to those charged with causing an accident or those who have displayed a lack of competence in operating a vehicle, regardless of age.

It is right that this government designate the month of June for seniors, but it is wrong for this government to continue with the discriminatory policy of retesting seniors over the age of 70, even when the vehicle they own is parked legally, unoccupied or being operated in a safe and competent manner at the time of the accident.

#### ACTION READ

**Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph):** Today I ask all members of the House to recognize a special group of women. Action Read is a community literacy program in Guelph. Last week in Guelph it launched its first books, two publications funded by the Ontario women's directorate.

The books are *Street Mother*, written by literacy learner and activist Shirley Almack, and *Women: Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?* written by a group of seven women. Here's how the authors of *Women:*

*Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?* introduce themselves in the book:

"We are a group of women who got together through literacy to talk about being women. In this book we share our stories with you. Welcome to our lives. Enter if you dare. Share our struggles, our pain, our sorrows, our dreams, our goals and our work as a group. These stories are based on our courage. We have learned to open up more to give us courage and confidence in ourselves and to speak our voice."

The authors are Shirley Almack, Monique Beaulieu, Gerty Burnelle, Lucy Carere, Bonnie Ford, Joanne Harrison and Rosemary Meadus. I wish to close with a piece written by Bonnie Ford called *A Person*:

I feel like a rose not in bloom

I want to feel like a person

Like the rose out in bloom

I want to walk down that aisle  
and get myself a diploma some day  
People like me they feel empty inside  
cause they can't get what they want

This is why I feel like the bud

I want to feel like the rose out in bloom.

Publishing these books was a first for Action Read, but Joan Rentoul and Anne Moore, program coordinators for Action Read, say they've always encouraged people to write down their own stories. They do this because it's important to provide a place where learners are listened to because so often they weren't listened to in their lives. I hope today that we've all heard them.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

**Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North):** I want to make comment today in the few moments we have allotted here, to reflect on some of the concerns we have on the environmental initiatives of this government. The 1992 Ontario budget was certainly a big disappointment to Ontarians concerned about the quality of the natural environment. In fact, many believe the government is performing a green dance backwards, which is intended to fool the Ontario public into believing that many of the tax increases included in that budget are intended to serve environmental purposes.

This is nothing but a corporate greenwash. For example, the expansion of the environmental levy on non-refillable beverage alcohol containers has been expanded and increased and it's expected to generate \$85 million. At the same time the NDP taxes the environment, it guts the budget of the Ministry of the Environment by nearly \$61 million. There has been no assurance given by the government that the expected revenues generated from the beer can tax will go into environmental programs. The public is concerned about that.

Let me talk about something else in the brief moments we have left, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** There are quite a number of private conversations. We're at a stage in the proceedings for statements by members. It would certainly be appreciated if private conversations could be held outside the chamber.

The House has come to order. I would ask the Clerk to reset the clock at one minute and 30 seconds. The member may begin his statement over again.

**Mr McClelland:** I was commenting about the budget and the implications that has in terms of the environment, and the fact that notwithstanding the government has brought forward so-called environmental taxes, at the same time it's cutting back on many fronts. Questions have been raised in this House by myself and my colleagues about what this government is doing in terms of the environmental initiatives it so loudly and vigorously espoused during the campaign of 1990 and certainly before that.

I noted in my comments just a moment ago that notwithstanding the fact that considerable funds have been generated under the guise of environmental taxes, the Ministry of the Environment's budget has in fact been cut; programs have been cut. We talked about that on a number of fronts.

Let me talk also, if I could, momentarily about the participation of the public. There's no question the environmentally conscious and sincere people of Ontario are sceptical about this government, not only in terms of the 1992 budget, but also in terms of the participatory process. I think back to Bill 143 and the fact that this government wanted to ram it through. They're going to be announcing very shortly a number of sites, 53, in and around the Toronto area. The fact of the matter is the government wanted to do that without any real public consultation or input.

A few moments ago, I attended a press conference co-sponsored by the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Health on a very significant and important issue, the provincial strategy for biomedical waste release. I'm certain my friend the member for Halton Centre will have much to say about that. The fact of the matter is the government has decided to give the public of Ontario 60 days, and only 60 days, to participate in this very important issue that has serious implications for people across this province. This government is not committed financially, and is certainly not committed in terms of public participation, to issues of the environment that are of great concern.

#### FIRE IN NORTH YORK

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** Last night a building in my riding of York Mills burned, severely injuring the fire captain and sending four others for smoke inhalation treatment. At last report, Captain Andy Deslauriers, a 25-year veteran of the fire department, was listed in critical condition. I know members of this House will join in praying for the captain.

I also extend congratulations to his fellow firefighters for their bravery in this dramatic rescue effort. They risked their own lives to save their comrade. Firefighters are a special breed. It takes an exceptional kind of courage to enter a burning building, to face an out-of-control fire, to work every day knowing you may need to put your life on the line.

This building was 30 years old. The Ontario Building Code requires sprinklers only for new large office buildings. The legislation requires retrofitting of older public

assembly buildings and institutions, but not office buildings. Sprinklers mean a safer environment for everyone. More sprinklers mean fewer injuries, less fire damage and fewer deaths.

Let us learn from this tragedy and use it as momentum to change our regulations to make buildings safer for workers and less dangerous for our firemen. Maybe then we won't need to be back here in future years paying tribute to injured firefighters.

#### AL HERRINGTON

**Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford):** I rise today to give recognition to the many dedicated teachers across this province who make that extra effort to help students become better individuals, and to those teachers who will be retiring this year. I would particularly like to pay special tribute to one outstanding educator, Dr Al Herrington, vice-principal of H. B. Beal Secondary School in London.

Dr Herrington has been involved in education in London for 30 years. Throughout that time he has been active not only as a teacher and administrator, but as a swimming coach, driver's education teacher and staff adviser to students' council.

However, Dr Herrington's contributions are not confined just to the city of London. In 1979 he was appointed by the Ontario Secondary School Headmasters' Council to be an adviser to the Ontario Secondary School Students' Association, more commonly known as OSSSA. In the time Dr Herrington has been an adviser, the OSSSA has made great strides in its development. Among its accomplishments is the leadership training it provides for more than 1,500 students a year at 12 regional conferences. The OSSSA also organized a student Parliament here in the Legislature during Ontario's 1984 bicentennial celebration.

He has also fostered national and international relationships in having London host the third Canadian National Student Leadership Conference in 1987.

There are many young leaders in our communities today who have benefited from the work of the OSSSA, as well as from Dr Herrington's belief in and support of their abilities.

On behalf of those student leaders who have enjoyed the benefit of Dr Herrington's participation in student leadership, I say thank you to someone who has made a wonderful contribution to our education system.

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#### USE OF QUESTION PERIOD

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** On May 14 last, the members for Mississauga West (Mr Mahoney), York Centre (Mr Sorbara), Parry Sound (Mr Eves), Mississauga North (Mr Offer) and Brampton South (Mr Callahan) raised a point of order that ministers had been using responses to questions asked by government members during question period in order to make statements on government policy to the House.

I have taken the time to review Hansard carefully, and although I agree with the honourable members that statements by ministers should be made to the House in that period of our routine proceedings that is reserved for such,

it is sometimes very difficult for the Speaker to become the adjudicator of what is or is not a change in government policy.

It might be of interest to members at this point to go back in history a few years in order to put things in context. Before 1970, in this House, oral questions were permitted only after the Speaker had a chance to vet them when they had been presented in writing beforehand. I would like to quote Speaker Cass on March 31, 1969:

"As has been explained on many occasions in the House, the only questions contemplated by our rules are the written questions which appear on the notice paper. The putting of oral questions before the orders of the day on private notice is a practice of long standing which has the authority of precedent and approval by the House, and the procedure on such questions has also been well established by practice and precedent. When Mr Speaker or the minister to whom the question is directed is of the opinion that the question is not a proper one to be answered orally before the orders of the day, the Speaker or the minister, as the case may be, may require that the question be placed by the Clerk on the notice paper as a written question."

Members will appreciate that our rules have changed since 1970 and one of the effects of these many changes is that the Speaker must now give more latitude to members in the subject matter of their questions for the very simple reason that he has no occasion to vet these questions in advance. I must say that this applies to both sides of the House, and therefore I can only repeat that while I try to be vigilant, I cannot apply standards of questioning to the government members that I do not apply to opposition members, and therefore, the rule is that ministers should make statements on public policy to the House when that is possible; they should reserve those statements for that part of our routine proceedings that calls for statements by ministers and they should not try to insert statements on new government policy when giving answers to government members.

However, I must caution that these are expressions of what should take place, but I repeat, it remains very difficult for the Speaker to make final and arbitrary decisions on every answer that is made because it is not the style of oral question period as we know it today.

These are restrictions that were easily enforced by the Speaker before 1970, when he was required to read questions presented to him in writing before allowing them to be asked orally in the House. I am certain I can count on the comprehension and goodwill of members who will understand that it is impossible for a Speaker in today's complex world, which is influenced to a great degree by public policy, to determine instantly, upon hearing it for the first time in the House, what constitutes or does not constitute new government policy or a departure from what was previous government policy.

## STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

### RETAIL STORE HOURS HEURES D'OUVERTURE DES COMMERCE DE DÉTAIL

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I have a statement to make about Sunday shopping.

The cabinet has decided to recommend to the House that we pass legislation to permit retail stores to open for business on Sundays.

This has not been an easy decision. As this House well knows, I have often stood in my place on both sides of the House to argue in defence of a common pause day on Sunday and restricted access to Sunday store openings.

Experience, which is always a good teacher, and a change in public attitudes in recent years have combined to persuade me that such legislation, however well intended, is extremely difficult to enforce fairly and runs up against a growing sense that many people want to shop on Sunday and are increasingly impatient of rules and regulations that prevent them from doing so.

I am not convinced that Sunday shopping on its own will lead to a dramatic increase in jobs or single-handedly stop cross-border shopping. But it is clear that we cannot put a wall up around Ontario and that changing social patterns here and in neighbouring jurisdictions are having a clear impact on the choices and attitudes of Ontarians.

I want to make it clear that the vote on the legislation, while it has the full support of the cabinet, will be a free vote in the Legislature for my own caucus, of course.

The legislation will protect store owners from having to open on Sundays if they choose not to, and of course workers are already clearly protected in law from having to work in retail stores on Sundays.

A special committee is being set up and will begin very soon to monitor the impact of this legislation and make recommendations to the cabinet on what further steps we can take to protect the interests of workers in the retail industry and store owners who may be adversely affected by this decision. I expect them to report to the Minister of Labour in six months. A chairperson and the membership of this committee will be announced shortly.

I am expecting the retail industry to do everything it can to respect the wishes of its workers who do not choose to work on Sunday and to take the positive steps to ensure the maximum employment gains it has been assuring us will flow from this decision.

I am keenly aware that while there are no doubt those who will be pleased with this decision, there are others who will be disappointed by it. It will come as no secret that there have been active discussions about this issue in my own party and that many have urged me and the government not to take this decision. To them I can only say that this government, like all governments, has to govern with the public interest in mind and that public policy in this area has to respond to a changing public attitude. The current law is, I am now convinced, unsustainable in the longer term, and to make it more restrictive would be to fly in the face of public opinion.

I think I have the time to read it in the other official language, Mr Speaker, if I could.

J'ai une déclaration à faire au sujet du magasinage le dimanche.

Le Conseil des ministres a pris la décision de recommander à l'Assemblée que nous fassions adopter une loi qui permettrait aux magasins de détail d'ouvrir leurs portes le dimanche.

Cette décision n'a pas été facile. Comme le savent les députés de l'Assemblée, j'ai souvent défendu, des deux côtés de la Chambre, la journée de pause commune le dimanche et l'accès restreint aux magasins le dimanche.

L'expérience, combinée au changement d'attitude de la part du public depuis les dernières années, m'a convaincu qu'une telle loi, bien que fondée sur de bonnes intentions, est très difficile à implanter de façon juste et se heurte au désir grandissant de plusieurs personnes de magasiner le dimanche et à leur intolérance à l'égard de la législation qui les empêche de le faire.

Je ne suis pas convaincu que le magasinage le dimanche créera un nombre important d'emplois additionnels, ni qu'il empêchera à lui seul le magasinage transfrontalier. Mais il est clair que nous ne pouvons encercler l'Ontario d'un mur et que les modèles sociaux changeants d'ici et des territoires avoisinants ont un net impact sur les choix et les attitudes des Ontariens et Ontariennes.

Je voudrais préciser que le vote de cette loi, bien qu'il ait l'appui du Conseil des ministres, sera un vote libre à l'Assemblée. Cette loi protégera les propriétaires de magasins de détail qui choisiront de ne pas ouvrir leur commerce le dimanche et, évidemment, les travailleurs qui sont déjà clairement protégés par la loi pour ne pas être obligés de travailler dans les commerces le dimanche.

Un comité spécial sera mis en place et commencera sous peu à surveiller les répercussions de la législation. Il fera des recommandations au Conseil des ministres au sujet des étapes supplémentaires que nous pouvons prendre afin de protéger les intérêts des travailleurs de l'industrie du commerce de détail et les propriétaires de magasins qui pourraient être défavorisés par cette décision. Le comité, dont le président sera nommé sous peu, devrait présenter un rapport au ministre du Travail dans six mois.

1400

Je demande aussi aux gens du secteur de l'industrie du commerce de détail de faire tout en leur pouvoir afin de respecter les désirs de leurs travailleurs qui choisissent de ne pas travailler le dimanche et de prendre des mesures positives afin d'assurer des gains d'emploi maximums.

Je suis conscient que, même si certains seront ravis de cette décision, d'autres en seront déçus. Cela n'a rien de secret si je vous dis qu'il y a eu de vives discussions au sein de mon parti et que plusieurs m'ont conseillé vivement, ainsi qu'au gouvernement, de ne pas prendre cette décision. Tout ce que je peux leur dire c'est que ce gouvernement, comme tous les gouvernements, doit gouverner avec l'intérêt du public en tête et que la politique publique dans ce domaine doit répondre à une opinion publique changeante. Je suis maintenant convaincu que la loi actuelle serait inadéquate à long terme et

qu'en la rendant encore plus restrictive, nous irions à l'encontre de l'opinion publique.

Merci, Monsieur le Président.

**Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services):** This afternoon I will be introducing amendments to the Retail Business Holidays Act. These amendments will eliminate Sundays from the current definition of "holiday," making it possible for stores to open on Sundays with the exception of Easter Sunday, which is preserved as a holiday on which stores must close. Thus the section of the current legislation which permits stores to open on Sundays in December prior to Christmas will also be repealed.

These amendments will also be providing retailers who hold commercial leases the right to remain closed if they so wish, regardless of the terms of their leases. When the bill is passed, these measures will come into effect retroactive to today. I have also asked officials of my ministry to inform police services across the province of the introduction of these amendments.

## RESPONSES

### RETAIL STORE HOURS

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** It's about time. We can only hope that the statements made by the Premier and the Solicitor General today will finally bring an end to this issue and finally bring an end to what we can only describe as a circus of mismanagement and indecision by this government on this matter. Today we can only ask, "Why did it take so long?"

This government has dithered while Ontario retailers lost millions of dollars. The government has dithered while conscientious individuals struggled with the decision as to whether they would flout the law by opening their stores or risk having to close their stores altogether. The government has dithered while individuals desperately took out ads imploring this government to make a decision that would at least give them an equal playing field. The government has dithered while municipalities across this province have spent countless hours and hundreds of dollars trying to draft bylaws that would make this impossible legislation work for them in some way, only to have it appealed by the Ontario Municipal Board.

I wonder if the lesson is this: that the Premier and his government have learned it is important to listen to public opinion, to listen to all of the people before taking action so that they will understand where the public view is. In 21 years in politics I have never seen an issue on which the expression of public need and public will has been clearer than on this issue. By the time this government brought in its legislation the public demand had become literally a hue and cry.

The government knew what the public will was. They also knew this was bad legislation. It was unworkable and unenforceable. Their own ministries told them this was not enforceable legislation, that it was not, to use the Premier's term, sustainable. Yet they were determined to go ahead. They marched ahead. They did, even then, fly in the face

of public opinion. Now four months later they are finally back to where they should have started.

At least we think they're back to where they should have started. We wonder whether the Premier's decision to call for a free vote on this particular issue at this particular moment is not simply a continued abdication of the responsibility for leadership on the part of the Premier. We wonder whether on this very difficult issue for his caucus and his party the Premier indeed has the support of a majority of the members of his government to bring in its own proposals or whether the Premier is counting on the votes of the opposition to do what he very well knows is needed.

I ask the Premier whether he will be here when this vote is taken to demonstrate that there is solid support from his cabinet for these measures, whether he himself will vote in favour of his own proposals, whether he will be here to stand with his caucus, because the Premier owes it to the people of this province to clearly take his stand and cast his vote at the end of this very long and difficult debate.

We welcome this legislation. We are concerned about the further steps the government says it is going to introduce. We will want to look at the impact those further steps will have. We will want to see if the government in fact supports its own proposals. But at the end of the day we look forward to simply getting on with it.

**Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South):** Recently the very humble and modest Minister of Culture and Communications gave herself an A-plus on the work that she has been doing in her ministry. I would like to give the Ontario NDP socialist government an F for failure on its lack of leadership on this whole matter of Sunday shopping.

Hundreds of retail stores have closed and thousands of retail workers have lost their jobs while the NDP has fiddled and placed ideology ahead of the needs of Ontario's retail business and retail workers. We have seen the government abdicate all responsibility for the leadership it won some 18 months ago.

I firmly believe that the only reason we're going to have Sunday shopping in Ontario is not because the NDP is concerned about retail workers or the retail stores. It's because they don't want to be put in the embarrassing position of having casinos open on Sunday while retail stores are closed on Sunday. That is the only reason why we're going to have Sunday shopping—not because they want to stem the tide of cross-border shopping, not because they've had a change of heart, not for any positive reason whatsoever. They deserve an F for the lack of leadership we've gotten on this whole issue.

**Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound):** I'd like the opportunity, just briefly, to respond to the Premier's statement and that of the Solicitor General today.

First of all, I note with some amusement the position taken by the Leader of the Opposition, who now says that it's about time this law was introduced, when it was only a short time ago, about a week or two, when her party's position during question period was, "Bring back the municipal option; bring back the good old David Peterson law."

The Premier is waiting for the other shoe to drop, I'm sure.

I also note with some amusement that the Premier says that it has the full support of cabinet and that there will be a free vote in the Legislature. That's sort of talking out of both sides of your mouth. I don't think—I'm sure the Premier will correct me if I'm wrong—that it has the full, 100% support of his own cabinet. I notice the absence of hysteria and glee over there, specifically from six cabinet ministers, some of whom sit in very close proximity to the Premier of the province, so I don't think it has their full support. We can only wait to see if indeed it is a free vote in the Legislature by your members and cabinet, Mr Premier.

I want to say this to the Solicitor General: While we respect the legislation you've introduced today, Mr Solicitor General, I do note that you were totally silent on the issue of outstanding cases and prosecutions before the courts today. I'm sure that it was a just an oversight on his part and that he'll be having more to say about equity and fairness in the judicial system in the not-too-distant future.

1410

**Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South):** This band of incompetent, bungling fools who represent the Ontario government can't even make a reversible decision without confusion and chaos.

Interjection.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The member for Yorkview, come to order.

**Mr Carr:** The government has dithered while the Liberals tried to fob it off on municipalities. Our leader, on October 31, in New Directions said this about your legislation: "Both the existing Liberal legislation and the proposed NDP laws are unfair, unworkable and bad for the economic wellbeing of the province." That's what the people said last summer during the hearings when we went from Ottawa to Thunder Bay. They said it's unfair, unworkable and bad for the province.

One year later we turn around and get some type of results from this Premier, and let's face it, the only reason he reversed himself was because of the court challenge that was going to come, because of the fact retailers said, "We're going to open anyway, notwithstanding your crazy law," and finally because the polls said that's what we should do. In New Directions we stated it last year. A year later you finally turn around and do it.

What happened to all the outstanding charges? What's going to happen to all those people who have gone through chaos for virtually a year? During this period of time this government's dithering has been, "Yes, there'll be Sunday shopping; no, there won't be Sunday shopping; maybe there'll be Sunday shopping; yes, there will be; no, there won't."

Now we're into a free vote situation. A free vote means everybody, Mr Premier, not just the cabinet. A free vote means everybody, and for a group that is used to having free lunches, you should know that a free vote means everybody in this Legislature.

We're also going to be interested to see what type of muzzling goes on for the members, such as the member

for Welland-Thorold, and whether in fact they are going to be able to express their vote freely in this Legislature.

This piece of legislation was condemned by both sides on the issue in the hearings held in the summer. The people in favour of Sunday shopping didn't like it; the people opposed to Sunday shopping didn't like it. You attempted to please everybody, in the tradition that you continued since you were elected September 6, 1990, and you cannot continue to please everyone. This decision here today to allow the members to make a free vote is a first step, but unfortunately you're a year too late and unfortunately a lot of the retailers out there are going to suffer because you don't have the political courage to make tough decisions.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** Let me just read quickly into the record from August 19, 1990, An Agenda For People:

"Men and women across Ontario told me that they don't want promises that can't be kept, and they don't trust parties that pretend to serve every need and satisfy every demand."

Mr Premier, your Xerox machine should work overtime. You owe every person in this province who voted for you a letter of apology. There are people out there who believed what you said. You have capitulated. You've hung them out to dry. You and your government should be ashamed of yourselves.

#### MINISTERIAL COURTESY

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** On a point of personal privilege, Mr Speaker: I believe my privileges as a member have been breached or in fact prejudiced.

I understand from a number of sources that the Minister of Labour is going to be making a statement tomorrow dealing with the Labour Relations Act. I further understand that a series of briefings is being conducted by the Ministry of Labour for a number of interested groups across this province, commencing this evening and to be continued tomorrow morning. As a member of this Legislature and as the Labour critic for our party, I and, I understand, the Labour critic for the Conservative Party have not been invited to these particular briefings. There is going to be a variety of individuals across this province who are going to be aware of the statement pending by the Minister of Labour before any member of this Legislature and in fact before any critic of either of the opposition parties.

Mr Speaker, I believe that to be a valid point of privilege of which my privileges as not only the Labour critic but of all the members—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Could the member take his seat. While indeed I appreciate the matter of interest which the member brings before me and it is a matter which he may wish to discuss with the Minister of Labour, first of all, with respect to any statement to be made in the House I cannot deal with hypothetical situations. Second, the other matter to which he refers is something that is outside of the chamber and outside of our standing orders. Unfortunately, there is not a privilege which the member has lost.

**Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I believe we have agreement

for unanimous consent to speak to the death of a former member of this place.

**The Speaker:** Agreed.

#### STANLEY WILLIAM FARQUHAR

**Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin):** Mr Speaker, I regret to inform the House of the passing of Stanley William Farquhar on Saturday, May 30, at his home on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Mr Farquhar was elected to this Legislature in 1963, re-elected in 1967 and he chose not to run in the election of 1971. Mr Farquhar was a dairyman by profession. He was the secretary-treasurer and general manager of Thomas Farquhar and Sons, which continues to this day as a major supplier of dairy products and ice cream in our part of Ontario.

Mr Farquhar had a long history of service to his community. He was, for example, the president of the Little Current Lions Club and the Elliot Lake Kiwanis Club. In the local political field, he served his community as school board trustee, as a member of council and as mayor of the town of Little Current.

During his years representing these communities in this place he was involved in a number of significant community projects. I would cite, for example, the building of the hospital at Little Current, the construction of the Manitoulin Centennial Manor and the completion of what is now Highway 6 from Espanola to Little Current. He will be remembered for his involvement with the establishment of the Sault College campus at Elliot Lake, the various projects at the E. B. Eddy mill and the establishment of the Manitoulin Board of Education.

But perhaps Mr Farquhar will be best remembered as a congenial, tireless worker for the people of Algoma-Manitoulin. I'm told that it was not uncommon for Mr Farquhar to work diligently and long to find assistance for a constituent in need. Those were in the times when we did not have the resources we have today and the social network and safety net was not what it is today.

The dedication to community service by Mr Farquhar was natural. He was the son of Senator Thomas Farquhar, who at various points in his lifetime was the mayor of Sault Ste Marie, the reeve of Carnarvon township, the MPP for Algoma-Manitoulin and the MP for Algoma East. The family continues these fine traditions of community service.

Stan was first elected to this Legislature when Lester B. Pearson was the MP for Algoma East and the Prime Minister of Canada. Their accomplishments and the close personal relationship between Stan and Mr Pearson remain strong memories in the hearts of the people of Algoma-Manitoulin.

I wish to extend the sympathies and condolences of the people of Algoma-Manitoulin and the Liberal caucus to his wife, Maisie, his children Thomas, Frances, Karen and Wendell, his sister, Mrs Ruth Ashley, and his brothers Thomas, John and Allen. The memorial service will take place at Little Current United Church Friday at 2 pm.

Again, on behalf of myself and the federal member, Dr Maurice Foster, I extend sympathies to the family.

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** On behalf of our leader Mike Harris, the member for Nipissing, and the PC caucus, we stand and pause in reflection and pleasant memories of a person who served his riding and this province in a wonderful way during his terms of office.

When we look at the number of people who have served the province of Ontario whose names are engraved in the ivory downstairs, there is a sense there of the many men and women who have given so generously of themselves to make this a better place to live.

Stanley came to this place with the experience of someone who had served in local government and he brought the wisdom and experience of having been at the local level. He served in the service clubs of his community, so he knew something of what it was his community needed. He brought business experience from his agricultural background in his own family business, which made him one well positioned in a significant way to make this a better province.

In joining with the member for Algoma-Manitoulin and the family and friends of Stanley Farquhar, our caucus bows in reflection of one who did make a difference. It just goes to show that all party differences somehow disappear when we look at what we're here to do, that is, to serve the people of Ontario. Stan Farquhar was certainly one of those, and our caucus sends to his family and all who knew him our sincere sympathy at his passing.

1420

**Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs):** On behalf of the government I want to join all members in expressing our sincere condolences to Mrs Farquhar and the family. Stan Farquhar served with distinction in this House and, as my friend the member for Algoma-Manitoulin indicated, with great congeniality. When I first ran for election in 1975 to this place in the neighbouring riding of Algoma, the name Stan Farquhar was well known to my constituents as a person who not only served his own constituents of Algoma-Manitoulin, but was always there to assist the whole of the north shore.

Obviously the Farquhar family has been well known through the north shore and in Sault Ste Marie and Manitoulin as a family that served the public and served the interests of the people of the north with distinction. Stan of course was born in Sault Ste Marie where his father had served as the mayor, and his father went on to serve with distinction in the federal House and as a senator. Stan is still well known. The family is well known through the dairy business and just recently joined with the dairymen of Algoma district to attempt to ensure that there will be continuing local dairy service to the people of Sault Ste Marie. So the family continues to serve the whole area.

We all are the better for having known or experienced the service of Stan Farquhar. We know it is a sad time for the family, but it's also a time when they can reflect on the tremendous service and the pride they have in the example Stan Farquhar showed all of us on the north shore and on Manitoulin Island.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The kind and thoughtful comments by the members from Algoma-Manitoulin, Markham and Algoma will be forwarded to the family of Mr Farquhar.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is for the Premier, as we turn from today's issue to tomorrow's issue. We understand that tomorrow the Premier and his government will be bringing in their labour legislation. The Premier is only too well aware that right now this province is in the midst of the worst recession since the 1930s. We're seeing plant closings across this province at the rate of one every three days, 553,000 people in Ontario are unemployed, the highest level since 1983, and yet the NDP government still insists on forging ahead with its proposals to bring in changes to the Labour Relations Act.

I ask the Premier, how many jobs will his proposed changes to the Ontario Labour Relations Act create? Will they put one single person back to work?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I think one has to look at the government's program in its entirety and say that what this government has done with respect to job creation, both directly in terms of what we put into the economy and in terms of the more competitive tax environment which we've tried to create even as our deficit is as difficult as it is, has done a great deal to encourage more investment and to see that more investment takes place.

If the honourable member is arguing that an atmosphere in the workplace which is one of tolerance and respect and in which workers' rights to organize are taken seriously is one that is not conducive to the creation of jobs in this province, I would only say to her very directly I disagree profoundly, we in this party disagree with her profoundly and we believe that the direction we're taking with respect to creating a more positive partnership between labour and management is the direction in which we have to go as a province, in which we want to go as a province and which we encourage all the partners in the labour force, business, labour, everyone in the community, to be involved in creating.

**Mrs McLeod:** The Premier is absolutely right. We are concerned about jobs, we believe this is an issue about jobs and we believe the workers of this province are concerned about jobs.

We know, at least we believe we know, the government is aware of the studies that have been prepared which suggest that, far from being conducive to job creation, the changes proposed to the Labour Relations Act will actually result in the loss of perhaps as many as 260,000 more jobs in Ontario. We know the government has said it doesn't believe these statistics, but it refuses to table its own impact studies showing how many jobs the government expects to be lost.

In our opinion, this seems to suggest either that the government has no idea how many jobs are going to be

lost or that it's determined to go ahead with the initiative regardless of how many jobs may be lost. Obviously, while we care about jobs, this government doesn't seem to. We would ask the Premier to explain again to the people of Ontario why he would press ahead with this legislation without seeming to have any concern about the job loss this is going to cause.

**Hon Mr Rae:** The Leader of the Opposition, who goes on radio—I hear her from time to time promising what a different kind of leader she's going to be—first of all just simply spouts the various numbers that are thrown up by the various lobbies out there that are out to defeat the legislation. What do you think they would have said with respect to the environmental laws the Liberal Party passed which you were so strongly in favour of? What do you think they would have said about any of the legislation your government introduced several years ago?

I would say very directly to the honourable member that what we are doing is attempting, through the Premier's Council, through the investment policies of this government and through the capital investment policies of this government, to say to people that to argue that you have to choose between fairness and employment is a false choice, that it's an unfair choice and that it's not a 20th-century choice for the people of this province. We think you can have jobs and justice, and that's the direction of this government.

**Mrs McLeod:** When there's no answer to the question, you lose the question in the rhetoric. This is an issue about today. It's an issue about your laws. It's an issue about 557,000 people in the province who are already out of work and our concern that these proposals coming in at this time in this way will put even more people out of work and in the unemployment lines.

It seems quite clear that the Labour Relations Act amendments are not going to create any new jobs. We believe, without any contradictory evidence from the government to refute it, that these amendments could lead to significant job losses. But beyond that, we're concerned that this legislation could produce a virtual paralysis both in our economy and in our ability to provide needed services.

We hear school boards say they're afraid that one striking union with only a couple of workers could force them to close classrooms. We hear utilities worrying that they won't be able to supply power to consumers during a labour disruption. We hear children's aid societies fear that they won't be able to protect children if there's a strike. I see the Premier shaking his head. These are the concerns people are sharing with us. Surely the government, even in its stage-managed consultation on these amendments, has heard the same concerns.

I would ask the Premier, is he not hearing these concerns and is he not going to respond to the concerns he has been hearing about the proposed changes in his legislation? Will he make changes to the proposals they've been talking about?

**Hon Mr Rae:** Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition asked questions with respect to our decision today, again casting fear, doubt and misinformation based on whatever

press speculation and going out and seriously talking to the press as if this were public policy. Today she is doing exactly the same thing, and I thought this was going to be a Liberal with a difference. This isn't a Liberal with a difference; this is just a Liberal and that's what we see.

Let me contrast the comments of this Leader of the Opposition with the Liberal leader, Sir Oliver Mowat, campaigning 102 years ago in the election of 1890. This is what Sir Oliver Mowat had to say with respect to labour relations 102 years ago, at the end of the 19th century. Sir Oliver said:

"In a right state of society there ought to be no antagonism between the various classes of which the community is composed. I am glad to believe that there is little antagonism between the different classes in this glorious province. But if there is antagonism, my sympathy and that of my colleagues is with the masses rather than with the classes."

We have a Liberal Party of the classes. That's the Liberal Party that's taken over, not the one people knew 102 years ago.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. New question.

**Mrs McLeod:** Mr Speaker, shall I proceed?

**The Speaker:** The Leader of the Opposition with a new question.

**Mrs McLeod:** I would say to the Premier that the questions we raised yesterday were about those further steps which he has only alluded to in his statement and which we wait to see, and it is not the Liberal Party that has polarized labour and management in this province over the past 12 months.

1430

#### SKILLS TRAINING

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** Let me turn to a second question, which I hope the Premier may find answerable. The Premier may be aware that section 26 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, which he will of course recognize is a federal act, allowed individuals to extend their unemployment insurance benefits while they were enrolled in training that was 52 weeks or less in duration. The federal government has suddenly capped this.

At a time when we are hearing of plant closures on a daily basis, clearly the need for this type of training is critical. Currently the option is not being provided by the provincial government for this kind of training. I would ask the Premier whether his government is prepared to step into the vacuum which now exists in training programs.

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I can tell the honourable member this, and I can tell her as directly as I can: First of all, we deplore the actions of the federal government with respect to capping. That's not the only thing it is doing. It is also cutting its transfers to this province with respect to skills training to the tune of tens of millions of dollars both with respect to this year and with respect to the next fiscal year.

We have made this a point of discussion and a point of contention even within the constitutional discussions, and it's one of the reasons why Ontario is seeking greater control over labour market initiatives and why we are looking very hard at how we do this. I can tell the honourable member that of course Ontario is going to be looking at all of our labour market initiatives to make sure they are as effective as they can be.

Concerning the particular question with respect to section 26, I know the minister will want to look at it and at the impact it's going to have on the province. I can tell the member that the impact of other federal cuts has been serious, but I should also tell her that it isn't simply a matter of our filling in where the federal government has cut; it's a matter of our saying very clearly and emphatically to the federal government: "We are having to take up far more of the slack. We are having to do far more of this, and we're going to be insisting on a fairer division of the fiscal pie in order to allow us to do it." Ontario is not going to sit back and accept the kinds of cuts which have taken place in the Canada assistance plan, in the established programs financing, and now in areas in which we had thought there was a clear federal agreement with us to continue an increased level of funding with respect to skills training.

I can assure the member, and I'm glad we have her support in this area, that this is an issue of real contention between this government and the government of Canada.

**Mrs McLeod:** I raised the question as a very real concern that we are probably all hearing from constituents, knowing that the Premier would respond in terms of the federal government cutbacks, and that's quite appropriate in response to my first question.

But I want to impress upon the Premier the immediacy of this situation in real human terms, the immediacy and the urgency of this situation for the hundreds and hundreds of people who are out of work because of Ontario plants having closed and who were hoping to be able to go and take a training program so that they could get a new start. We are hearing from literally thousands of constituents who have lost their jobs, who had already made arrangements to take those training programs and who have now been told they can't pursue those options which they saw as being the only hope for their future.

I would ask if the Premier could tell us how his government, recognizing the vacuum, recognizing a concern for these individuals, will respond to the individuals who find they cannot access training programs under the unemployment insurance program or any other program. Where can he tell these people to go?

**Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte):** The problem is immediate.

**Hon Mr Rae:** The problem is immediate, as the member from Belleville quite rightly points out, and the problem is very real. I know the leader will simply say, "Well, tell me exactly what you're going to do and when you're going to do it." We have already indicated with respect to the training fund that we're putting more money into the training fund and creating more opportunities with the training fund than any government has done. We're willing

to take the criticism that we have taken for cutting in some other areas, because we've had to cut in some other areas. We've had to reduce funding in some other areas, and some of the long faces you see on cabinet ministers occasionally reflect those decisions. We have done that in order to put more money into the skills development field and the training field, but I want to say to the honourable member that there also is—

**Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West):** The budget hasn't created one job yet, Bob, not one job. Nobody is getting a paycheck from your budget.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order, the member for Ottawa West.

**Hon Mr Rae:** The member for Ottawa West has moved down to occupy the front bench and I congratulate him for his promotion. We've had no difficulty hearing the honourable member wherever he's been shouting from, I can assure him, but we'll say to the honourable member that we are putting more money into the—

**Mr Chiarelli:** The budget hasn't created one job.

**The Speaker:** The member for Ottawa West, come to order.

**Hon Mr Rae:** —training fund than ever before. We're putting it in now. In fact, we were discussing at cabinet even today how we can increase and accelerate the funds already in place with respect to the initiatives that need to be taken.

But I will say to her, and I hope she will at least agree with me in this area, that if she truly wants to be non-partisan in this area, I hope she would agree with me that there is an obligation on the part of the federal government to pay its fair share for programs which have traditionally been part of the federal arena and which now require us to move in because they've cut back. We're not getting the tax points and we're not getting the transfers—

**The Speaker:** Will the Premier conclude his response, please.

**Hon Mr Rae:** —and I hope I'll get the support of the Leader of the Opposition in that regard because it's a very important battle on behalf of all the citizens of the province.

**Mrs McLeod:** I'm sorry to tell the Premier that this isn't an issue on which I feel non-partisan; it's an issue on which I wish both the provincial and federal governments would stop simply shooting the ball into each other's court while nobody accepts responsibility for the individuals out there looking either for work or training opportunities.

The Treasurer has referenced the fact that they have a jobs training fund. He will surely know that the training fund is really a job placement program and is of absolutely no use to these individuals whatsoever. He's also mentioned the budget cutbacks which his government hopes are going to support training and other programs and that raises my final supplementary.

I earlier asked the Treasurer how he was going to transfer social assistance recipients to unemployment insurance, which is a measure in his budget intended to save, I believe, some \$330 million. The Treasurer's response was that unemployment insurance recipients are entitled to a

certain amount of job retraining as a part of unemployment insurance. Clearly he planned to save this money by transferring people to unemployment insurance so they could indeed benefit from the training. This option has now been taken away. People will not be able to move from social assistance to unemployment insurance to receive training and in fact many more people will be moving to social assistance sooner.

In light of these events, I ask the Premier to tell us whether the savings anticipated in the budget will still be able to be met or whether we are now facing not only a crisis in training but a \$330 million shortfall in his budget.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I can only say to the honourable member that we are managing our expenditures and if her party had stayed on in government post-1990—if either the Premier at that time hadn't called an election or, alternatively, the election had gone another way—the Liberal Party would be facing exactly the same fiscal crisis facing this government. She knows it, I know it, everybody in this House knows it. We have to manage the expenditures as best we can and that is what we intend to do. If the leader is asking if we intend to let the federal government off the hook with respect to its obligations under unemployment insurance, the answer is no.

1440

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North):** Premier, you mentioned today the need for fairness and justice in the area of labour relations, and as the Conservative critic for Labour I have been very concerned about the impact of the labour law reform on individual rights and freedoms. The proposals and the purpose clause are intended to facilitate the widespread unionization of Ontario workers and give more power to unions. This alters the current balance in legislation which also protects the employee who wants to remain non-unionized.

It appears there will be absolutely no protection for employees who, for many reasons, are opposed to being unionized. Indeed, there is widespread concern throughout the province about the loss of individual rights and freedoms. Under proposed changes, workers will be forced into unions if 50% plus one sign a union card. There will be no secret ballot and no cooling-off period. What about the 49% of the workers who don't want to join a union? Will you be fair, just as you have indicated there is a need to be and will the act allow for easier decertification as well?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I think the Conservative Party, which is applauding the comments by the member very vigorously—first of all, I say to the honourable member that I think it would be wisest for us to have this conversation after she's seen the legislation which is being proposed for second reading by the government.

Second, I say to her that if this is the tack the Conservative Party is taking, generally speaking, with regard to the labour legislation in this province, what in effect she is doing is arguing against labour legislation which is already in place in this province. It's in place in Newfoundland,

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. I say to the honourable member that she'd better be careful, in terms of the tack she's taking, that she make sure she's not arguing against what is a common practice and commonly regarded as the right of a majority of people within a unit, within a place of work to choose to join a union and express themselves in that choice by signing cards.

That has been the law. That's the law which is in place in the vast majority of jurisdictions in this country and is in fact the law that was introduced by her party, of which she's now a member, when it was on this side of the House. Let's not try to rewrite all of the recent labour law history in the province of Ontario.

**Mrs Witmer:** I'm concerned about the individuals who have written to me and indicated that they're afraid their freedom and rights are going to be lost under this new law. I introduced Bill 152 to allow secret ballot votes for certification, ratification of contracts and strikes. This bill would restore some fairness and justice and would protect individual rights. Are you prepared to include a secret ballot vote in the legislation, for true democracy?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I can only say to the honourable member, and I'm sure she will appreciate this, that this is a discussion we should have when the legislation is brought down, but obviously the views she has expressed, as well as the views others have expressed, will be taken into account, and have been taken into account, in the drafting of the legislation.

**Mrs Witmer:** Premier, I hope the views of all people in the province have been taken into consideration and that it simply hasn't been an exercise in public relations.

There's one proposal that women in this province are particularly concerned about. There was the suggestion that the government may force employers to submit the names and addresses during a unionizing drive. As you know, this would infringe on an individual's right to privacy. At a time when society and your government recognize that women in this province are very vulnerable, will you be discarding privacy protection measures for women in favour of organizational ease?

**Hon Mr Rae:** The member has me at a distinct disadvantage which I'm sure she's going to take advantage of. She knows full well that if I respond to her with respect to any individual question about the legislation, other members will say: "Well, what about this? Why are you giving out information with respect to legislation in an answer to a question in this way?" So I would only say to her, obviously, that first of all the proposal with respect to lists was not a proposal the government endorsed in the discussion paper; it was a proposal put forward for purposes of discussion, weighing the interests on both sides. I can assure the honourable member that we have weighed the interest on both sides in the proposals we'll be tabling tomorrow.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** New question, the member for Burlington South.

**Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South):** Perhaps the Premier could extend the courtesy to our critic and she would be able to be informed tonight by ministry staff.

#### DAY CARE

**Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South):** My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Minister, last year you announced some \$75 million in funds to assist the conversion of day care centres towards non-profit from the commercial sector in this province. That was met with certain fanfare from the non-profit sector and heralded as an opportunity to at least maintain the day care spaces in this province.

Since then we've had public hearings here in the Legislature, in March, at which point you indicated that the operating procedures you were following with respect to day care conversions had all been changed, that you'd changed your mind, that there was now a moratorium and so on and so forth. Now, Minister, you are in the process of public consultations. Your process has gone through three different phases, confusing the public as to what you're actually doing with day care conversions.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** And your question?

**Mr Jackson:** My question has to do with a woman by the name of Barbara Till who yesterday attended the consultation hearings in Barrie. She had phoned your ministry and was advised that she would be given either five or 10 minutes to participate in the discussion. At the 11th hour, your ministry advised her that she was barred from making any public commentary at these public hearings.

Madam Minister, why is it that the public's opinion, in particular that of parents, the most important stakeholders in children's day care needs in this province—your ministry has taken a position that their opinions are not as necessarily important as the non-profit day care operators' opinions are at this time?

**Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services):** The member has certainly taken me by surprise, because if someone had a time slot at one of the hearings and then was subsequently told there wasn't time, I certainly didn't hear about it and I'm as concerned as he is.

The purpose of the hearings is to get opinion from parents as much as it is from child care providers, from municipalities, from any interested group. I'm deeply concerned to hear that something like this has occurred and I will certainly look into it and inform the member at a later date what the ministry's explanation for that would be.

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** My question is also for the Minister of Community and Social Services. The YMCA of Orillia has indicated an interest in converting Kiddie Kapers Day Nursery School to a non-profit day care centre because it is a viable and a badly needed service. Up to 20% of all spaces in Orillia are here in this proposal. Your ministry told the YMCA, which is non-profit, that it is not eligible for the necessary funding because it's not operating within the conversion guidelines.

Minister, the question is, are the guidelines going to be in place immediately? These people, the families and the

children and the staff who are at that present private day care centre, want to continue that centre as a non-profit. Can we count on your support to have that happen before June 30?

**Hon Mrs Boyd:** I'm quite concerned, as is the member, at the delay in the devising of the guidelines. We had agreed that we would not do ad hoc decisions until those guidelines were decided in conjunction with the private operators and with the non-profit providers. Unfortunately those two groups have had some difficulty coming to consensus on how those guidelines should operate. The non-profit groups generally are not in favour of the conversion process because they feel it's not appropriate for us to be putting those dollars in this direction, and the for-profit operators of course are not happy with the number of dollars that are available. So we're having real problems coming to an agreement.

I share the member's concern when there is a time deadline like this, and I have told the committee that if it can't come up with firm guidelines within the next couple of weeks, we will simply have to make some of these interim decisions in order to ensure that spaces don't get lost. It will be done on the basis of the most urgent need and the level of care that's required in municipalities.

**Mr Jackson:** Minister, thousands of day care spaces in this province have closed and collapsed as a result of your dithering around this issue. I go back to the point that last year you announced millions of dollars for a conversion program. To date we can't find any centre where you've given any money, but we can point to hundreds of centres that have closed and been forced to close, and you've not stepped in to save those child care spaces.

If you're not going to listen to parents, if you're not going to listen to my colleague's concerns in his own area of Simcoe, I want you to listen to a concern that's been raised about your parliamentary assistant and his conduct at the May 6 meeting of your public consultation in Metro north. It has been alleged that in a conversation he had with members of United Voices for Fair Treatment in Child Care, he was quoted as saying that if the private side, referring to them, did not stop fighting and resisting the NDP plans to make all child care non-profit, his caucus will just say to hell with it and forget about offering private operators any type of conversion package. He said the NDP has made its mind up as far as making all child care non-profit, so there is no point in fighting the decision.

Madam Minister, I consider that a serious concern—

**The Speaker:** And your question?

**Mr Jackson:** —and I would ask you to look into it.

More important, how can you sit back idly, with 8,000 women workers waiting for you to bring in your conversion package and they're losing their jobs, 20,000 to 30,000 children who are—

**The Speaker:** Would the member complete his question, please.

1450

**Mr Jackson:** Mr Speaker, I'm in the process of completing my question. Thank you.

Thirty thousand children depended on you to make this decision. Madam Minister, when will you bring in your package of reforms to save these day care spaces in Ontario instead of allowing a couple of thousand more to close and barring those children from the day care services they deserve?

**Hon Mrs Boyd:** I can only assume the member is suggesting that we not try to reach consensus with the two groups involved.

**Mr Jackson:** You already made the decision. Listen to your PA.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mrs Boyd:** We would need to have agreement of non-profit groups to purchase the assets of for-profit groups and, equally, the willingness of for-profit groups to sell their assets. So we were attempting to come to a consensus. But I confess I'm getting quite annoyed that the two groups do not seem to have been able to come to that agreement.

I am not responsible for statements made by anyone other than myself. I have indicated to the member on a number of occasions that we are not in any way saying that only non-profit child care will exist. We are saying that any expansion of child care in this province will be in the non-profit sector but we will continue to licence for-profit centres if they comply with the standards. That continues to be the position, and I will certainly look into what the member alleges to be the comments of my parliamentary assistant.

#### YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** My question is to the Premier. Yesterday the Premier told the House that his newly appointed parliamentary assistant, the member for St Andrew-St Patrick, Ms Akande, would be reporting to cabinet today on the whole situation of youth unemployment in Ontario.

I would ask the Premier to report to the House on the findings of his parliamentary assistant and what action will flow from Ms Akande's work.

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** That is exactly what happened. I know we're not normally supposed to discuss what went on in cabinet, but I can tell the honourable member that we did hear very directly from the member for St Andrew-St Patrick. She made a very compelling report to us and a very practical one with respect to a number of programs which are in place, and some other ideas which she has.

I will be responding and we will be responding on behalf of the government very, very shortly with respect to the youth unemployment issue and with respect to the need for us to create more jobs. But I want to emphasize that it's not just the government that's going to have to be involved in this in terms of direct initiatives. There are things we can do through the government, but I'm sure the honourable member would agree with me that we as a government have to do whatever we can to encourage the private sector and others to participate in this way.

I can say to the honourable member that I see some opportunities even with respect to the Sunday openings issue, that we would look to the retail industry to be responding in an affirmative way to the needs of our young people and to be looking to this over the summer months.

**Mr Conway:** Now that is making virtue out of circumstance.

**Hon Mr Rae:** You're right. It is. That's exactly what it is. I admit it.

**Mr Conway:** I will restrain myself. I will restrain myself.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** The member now has an opportunity to place a supplementary.

**Mr Conway:** The other day I was talking to a university student who will be returning in the fall to her program where government-regulated tuition and fees will be up by over 10% for the fall of 1992-93. Her costs are going to be up by over 10%. It's June 3; she has no job to date.

My question, Mr Premier, is, having regard to the responsibilities that we all have in this respect, what are we as members of the Legislature to tell students of the kind I have mentioned who are saying to us now well into the first week of June, "What can I expect by way of concrete assistance in the summer of 1992 so that I will have some hope of employment, some hope of revenues to meet, if nothing else, the government-imposed increased costs for returning to colleges and universities in Ontario in the fall of 1992?"

**Hon Mr Rae:** First of all, I want to say to the honourable member that we have authorized as a cabinet a 7% increase in tuition fees, that's true. I would say to the honourable member we have also indicated very clearly that any increase in the cost of fees will be fully covered in terms of additional coverage by OSAP with respect to that 7%.

I would say to the honourable member that we are going to do everything we can to respond to the crisis within the difficulties we face in terms of our own economic situation. I'm sure he would not expect me to say the government will provide employment to every single person in our society who needs it, either for the summer or for the long term. We're going to do everything we can within our means and within the money we have. I'm sure that, given his own experiences and given his own realities he has to face in his riding, he will understand that we will be doing what we can.

We have the report from the member for St Andrew-St Patrick now, and the government will be responding to that shortly and as effectively as we possibly can, given the overall fiscal and economic situation we face.

#### RETAIL STORE HOURS

**Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South):** My question is to the Premier. While you were in opposition and last summer during the hearings before the justice committee on Sunday shopping for four straight weeks your government continually said that there was no way workers would be able to be protected from having to be forced to work on

Sundays. My question is this: What has changed since last summer? What are you going to do to protect the workers so they aren't forced to work on Sundays?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** All I can say to the honourable member is that I'm sure it's simply a truism to say that the most effective way to ensure people won't have to work on Sunday is simply to shut down stores. That's a true statement. However, I hope the honourable member would appreciate—and I get the feeling that at least a majority of the members of his caucus would agree—that the previous approaches which have been tried by a number of different governments over a number of different years have now come up against the reality of changing public attitudes with respect to this issue.

We have a law in place that clearly gives workers the right to refuse, and we have the assurance from the retail industry that it's going to fully respect and abide by that law. We certainly intend to hold them to that. I'm going to ask the special committee that we will be looking at to see whether there are other things that can be done to strengthen the effectiveness of that right.

I'm not going to list all the things one could do. I don't think that's helpful. Obviously we as a government have decided we're not going to simply impose those conditions or whatever they might be today, because we don't think enough work has been done in the marketplace to come up with the right approach and with the better approach. I do think that with changing attitudes—I would include a changing attitude on the part of everyone in recognizing that this issue has been a difficult and divisive one for the province—

**The Speaker:** Would the Premier conclude his response, please.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I think there's reason to believe that the companies in the larger retail sector certainly understand, and I think employers generally understand, the need to respect individual choice in this area. We respect the choice of consumers, we respect the choice of store owners whether or not to open and we would ask all those to respect the rights of workers who choose not to work on a Sunday and who choose to do other things. We would ask that to take place.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** I think many members across the floor would have expected it to be a very cold day when you'd hear the Premier of this province, Mr Bob Rae, standing up and making a statement such as that.

Mr Premier, let's be very clear. When in opposition, you said you could not protect the rights of workers on Sundays. Mr Premier, it's not baffle-gab that's going to run around this issue. This is not like rent controls, where you kind of capitulated and you broke your promises. It's not like government-run auto insurance, where you can kind of send out the party line. There's no doubt in anyone's mind that you have broken a very important promise to the people of your party and the people who voted for you.

Now, there are also people out in this province—

**Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville):** They'd rather not hear that.

**Mr Stockwell:** I'm quite sure that the members across the floor don't want to hear this stuff. I'm quite sure they don't want to hear it. But I ask for one moment, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** If the member were to direct his questions to the Chair, it would be helpful.

1500

**Mr Stockwell:** You have, in fact, broken a very solid principle that you stood on for the past decade. I will say you got a number of votes last election on this issue.

**The Speaker:** Would the member place his supplementary.

**Mr Stockwell:** You have said in the past that when your government made a mistake you'd stand up and say you were wrong. Mr Premier, you have made a very clear and obvious mistake. You've broken a very clear and long-standing NDP policy.

**The Speaker:** Does the member have a supplementary?

**Mr Stockwell:** Will you stand up and tell the people of this province you were wrong and apologize?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I'm not quite sure how much or what volume of crow it is the member opposite would like me to ingest here. I would only say to members that I've been here for almost 10 years and in that time I think I've heard at least 12 different positions from the members of the Conservative Party on this issue. Similarly speaking, and I say this—

**Mr Stockwell:** You tell me. Ask me.

**Hon Mr Rae:** No, no. People have changed their minds. I've had one member of his caucus—I'm not going to identify which one—come over to me today and say: "I disagree with you. I'm still opposed to Sunday openings." I've had members of the Liberal Party—I won't mention any names because these are conversations—indicate they also take a different view from the view I've expressed today. I would say to the honourable member, yes, it's true to say I have changed—

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** You called people liars for this.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Mr Stockwell:** And they campaigned on it.

**Hon Mr Rae:** If the member would be good enough to listen for a moment; I realize he's in high orbit at this point. The octane is turned to its fullest amount.

**Mr Conway:** Better than full retreat, Bob. This is hard to take. This is Bill Davis on separate schools. This is Bill Davis on Spadina. This is the Allied troops at Dunkirk. This is unbelievable.

**Hon Mr Rae:** Good one. The member for Renfrew is going to have a good day.

**Mr Conway:** This is the right decision, I will admit now.

**Hon Mr Rae:** This is the right decision. All right. I just want to explain one more thing. If the member is

saying there has always been complete unanimity in the Conservative Party with respect to the direction to take or if he is saying the same thing is true in the Liberal Party, then I would say to him he is making a case that has no standing.

With respect to the enforceability of laws, on whether it's municipal option or whatever it may be, and other issues, I would say to him very clearly, we have taken what we think is the wisest course. It's a course others may disagree with. It's a course some may be disappointed with, but on balance I'm convinced it's the course that's in the best interests of the people of the province. That's the test every government has to meet with respect to public policy in this province.

#### MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES HIRING

**Mr Tony Martin (Sault Ste Marie):** My question this afternoon is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Minister, there is great concern around the hiring of the 450 eligibility review officers in your ministry. The public image of this new initiative is one of a policing system by investigating alleged fraud cases. Most studies indicate that less than 3% cheat the system. The hiring of fraud police creates a negative attitude towards those who legitimately rely on social assistance and channels financial and personnel resources the wrong way. What is the real purpose of the 450 eligibility review officers?

**Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services):** I'm really grateful to the member for asking the question because I, too, have been disturbed by the press reports that seem to suggest the increase in staffing is to catch people who are doing something wrong. There is a perception of fraud out there. There have been claims on the part of municipalities and members opposite that in fact we are not being careful enough about eligibility. But eligibility has a whole lot more to it than fraudulent aspects. You're quite right: Every study that has been done by internal audit, by the Provincial Auditor and by individual municipalities has indicated fraud is less than 5%. That is something that is significant when we're paying out \$6.2 billion in assistance. We obviously have to be careful of that.

The real issue is those people who are eligible for Canada pension plan payments, unemployment insurance payments or parental support payments who ought not to be having to rely on social assistance for their income because there is another source of income. Those are the cases we are particularly interested in dealing with, as well as cases of overpayment where we have not been diligent enough or where people have not reported the full extent of other income.

**Mr Martin:** You know as I know, though, that there are some municipalities out there that may take advantage of this new initiative to do more policing than was proposed in your announcement. Is there anything the ministry can do or is going to do to ensure that these people do the kinds of things you've just laid out for me here today?

**Hon Mrs Boyd:** These employees will be provincial employees who will be administering the Family Benefits

Act and, where the province has jurisdiction, the General Welfare Assistance Act. Municipalities administer the general welfare act through their own employees, so these employees are not expected to be at the behest of municipalities and to be doing anything other than administering the portions of the act that are under provincial jurisdiction. So I don't think you will find this will have any effect on those municipalities.

#### CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

**Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South):** My question is to the Minister of Correctional Services. No doubt the minister is aware that Millbrook Correctional Centre is the closest thing to a maximum security prison this province has. It houses prisoners who are escapees and prisoners who perhaps have been convicted of sexual offences.

There was a very excellent program at Millbrook called Annex which allowed these prisoners, in an effort to rehabilitate them, to work on the grounds of the facility under the supervision of correctional guards. It's my understanding that over the last little while this has been turned into a garden party. These prisoners are now not looked after by correctional officers; they're being looked after by two gardeners. They get an extra \$2,000 for doing it, but these gentlemen are not trained in looking after prisoners of this type.

Minister, you've placed Millbrook and the surrounding communities in severe difficulty and perhaps danger by this. I'd like to ask you how you can justify this type of conduct. Are you in fact aware of it, or did you just do what the Treasurer told you to do and cut 10% out of the budget? Are you aware of the risk at which you're putting the people of Millbrook?

**Hon Allan Pilkey (Minister of Correctional Services):** I'm aware of the subject matter but I'm not aware that we are putting any citizen at risk at all.

Up to eight carefully selected inmates with less than 30 days left in their sentences will be supervised by maintenance staff of the nature the member opposite mentioned. This is a type of arrangement that has been found in other work programs and many other correctional institutions throughout the province, and to date it has proven to be nothing short of successful.

**Mr Callahan:** Do I take from that that this is going to be a procedure you're going to adopt at other correctional facilities around the province by putting gardeners in place of guards? If that is the case, then I suggest you're sending a very dangerous message to the people of the province.

I suggest to you that a correctional officer makes \$21 an hour. Mr Layton makes \$37.50 an hour. Perhaps you can persuade your colleague the Minister of Health to forgo the services of Jack Layton. That would allow you to have at least one and a half or perhaps two guards.

The government seems to have money for everything else, any of its favourite programs, that simply drops out of the Treasurer's pocket. Do not the people of Ontario deserve the ability of having professional guards looking after correctional facilities? I'd like you to answer to the

people of Ontario, because if something happens, you are the person who is directly responsible for it.

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** There are different levels of security within our facilities. Surely the member opposite wouldn't have us expend dollars unnecessarily on a level of protection that wasn't required.

1510

#### FUEL SUBSTITUTION

**Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew):** My question is for the acting Minister of Energy. Mr Minister, last week in response to a question from the member for Durham East you stated that Ontario Hydro is currently involved in discussions with the gas industry on the issue of fuel substitution. Furthermore, you stated that the government would be pushing Bill 118 through as quickly as possible to get on with the fuel substitution program. Minister, what studies have your ministry and Ontario Hydro completed on the economic feasibility of these fuel-switching programs you are so eager to implement?

**Hon Brian A. Charlton (Acting Minister of Energy):** Perhaps I could start my response to the member by suggesting that if he hasn't seen any studies about completed proposals that we intend to make, I can refer him to the word he said I used last week. "Discussions" implies that we're still putting together programs. Discussions don't imply completed programs; discussions imply parties sitting down to work out the details. When those details are completed, I'll be releasing them here in the House.

**Mr Jordan:** The minister promised the Municipal Electric Association that it would be consulted before any proposals were made. Mr Minister, the London Public Utilities Commission has completed an extensive study which clearly indicates that its water heater load-shifting program is superior to fuel substitution. They are quite concerned that their project, which has been verified by Ontario Hydro, will be totally ignored. There is growing concern in many Ontario municipalities that Hydro is preparing to proceed with fuel substitution programs without the consent of or any consultation with the local utilities.

Minister, will you agree to delay all fuel substitution programs until all parties have been consulted and the affected utilities give their approval to proceed?

**Hon Mr Charlton:** No, I'm not going to delay fuel substitution programs and put this province in potential future jeopardy. I've heard members of the opposition raise the concerns the industrial sector in this province has raised on a number of occasions about energy security in Ontario. I'm not going to take the advice that the member opposite is putting forward and put this province at potential risk four or five years down the road.

Having said that, the London Public Utilities Commission has taken some initiative on its own, unlike many other public utilities in this province that have done nothing in terms of load shifting, fuel switching or energy efficiency.

It's an interesting approach that the London PUC has taken. We're prepared to have a look at it, but the London experience does not reflect either the numbers in the studies

that Hydro itself has done or in the studies that some of the other groups have done and doesn't take into account a number of things like the government's desire to be able to back off, for example, from the high use of coal, which causes serious environmental emissions during the peak periods in winter and summer. Those are all things that we have to take into account as we make our final decisions around this kind of package.

#### VEHICLE LICENSING OFFICES

**Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold):** I've got a question for the Minister of Transportation. Frank Mauro, Thomas Fang and Peter Perry are vehicle licence issuers. They're small business people. Frank Mauro has been serving the community of Welland for a long time now, and serving well, working hard, going the extra mile; similarly Thomas Fang on Fourth Avenue in St Catharines and Peter Perry down in Port Colborne, a young man who abandoned his previous career, a young person who's made a commitment to this office, to this government, operating his business.

I tell you, these people are afraid. They're afraid because, like me, they listened to the Minister of Transportation make a statement on December 5 introducing Ontario's strategy for safer roads. They saw that was part of the road ahead.

I tell you, having read the road ahead in Bill 164, that's the highway to hell in a handbasket. But I tell you what they're afraid of, that they are going to lose their status as vehicle licence issuers, that it's in the works, that it's inevitable.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** And your question?

**Mr Kormos:** What I need to know from the Minister of Transportation is, on behalf of these good, hardworking, public-minded, committed people, will he tell us and tell them, more important, that there are no plans to move these people out of those offices and to eliminate their role in our community?

**Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation):** Of course I do indeed welcome the question from my friend and colleague the member for Welland-Thorold. I'm somewhat appalled and shocked that anything would scare the member. I've heard him; Hansard will attest that he said he was afraid. The changes in that attitude must have come on the road to Damascus indeed. I'm aware of the valuable service, like we all are; we're talking in terms of 280 offices across the province of Ontario providing a service that has been provided, an essential service, for many, many years.

Business as usual does not prevent nor does it jeopardize jobs. This is the focus, this is what it's all about here. We have an obligation. Of course their role will change. It has changed in the past. It will change in the future. Our government will respond to the needs of an ever-changing society. I'll tell you something, Mr Speaker, with the highest of respect, we've never discussed our obligations. Our relationship goes beyond the strictly business. It entails an obligation that we intend to respect.

**The Speaker:** Would the minister complete his response.

**Hon Mr Pouliot:** Nothing will ever happen without discussion with the client group.

**Mr Kormos:** I've got a supplementary. You see, Frank Mauro from Welland and Peter Perry, longtime licence issuer from Port Colborne, and Thomas Fang, a young person, a new business person in St Catharines, are going to be among the hundreds of people at the Ontario Motor Vehicle Licence Issuers Association annual meeting here in Toronto on June 14. I'm going to be speaking to those people at their annual meeting.

The minister is an honourable person. I remember the minister when, as my mentor, he sat with me in the opposition and fought for the rights of little people against powerful bureaucracies and big government. I remember the minister. The vehicle licence issuers regard him as an integrous and honourable person as well.

This is an important issue, Speaker, please. This is the question. Will the Minister of Transportation permit me and authorize me, when I address those motor vehicle licence issuers at their annual meeting on June 14, to tell them, on behalf of the Minister of Transportation, that their roles as small business people are not in jeopardy, that this government will protect them, defend them and sustain them as this government should?

**Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale):** Yes or no, Gilles.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Pouliot:** Monsieur le Président, comme vous le savez, ce genre de question demande une réponse méticuleuse. My friend the member for Welland-Thorold would attest that this kind of question deserves more than a yes or no answer. But suffice it that in terms of the licensees doing what they've done for many years, plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose. They will keep providing.

I know the member will convey to our friends with all the sincerity at his command that as long as they are under the auspices of the Ministry of Transportation, we have an obligation that goes beyond the strictly business. Nothing will happen. There will be changes in the style of provision but we have an obligation, which is a moral obligation, as long as those fine people operate under the auspices of the Ministry of Transportation.

1520

#### WASTE MANAGEMENT

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. The minister's credibility as the champion of the 3Rs of reuse, reduction and recycling is really coming into question very seriously and there is now yet another attack on that credibility.

I tell the minister something she already knows: The municipality of Metropolitan Toronto is currently considering the reduction of the tipping fee, the cost of dumping a tonne of garbage for commercial and industrial users, from \$152 a tonne to perhaps as low as \$75 a tonne and

the transfer of the cost of that tipping to the individual home owner, potentially by the allocation of a tax on a per-bag basis on the garbage we as citizens put out on the street. That is the transfer of a tax on industrial and commercial users to the individual home owner who already pays for that garbage service through property taxes.

Worse still, the reduction of this tipping fee will put in jeopardy the entire recycling and reuse industry, fragile as it is, because it will then become cheaper for industrial generators of garbage to simply dump that garbage. I ask the minister, will she intervene and prevent Metro Toronto from making this tax grab and this reallocation of taxes from commercial users to home owners and will she stop this attack on a fledgling industry that actually could, if she intervened at this point, have some sign of hope and life in the future?

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment):** The recycling industry, which the member characterizes as being fledgling, is in fact a growing, very profitable and progressive industry right across this province. I hope the member will concede that has happened over the last two years because of the very strong commitment of this government to putting the 3Rs first, as opposed to putting disposal as the only solution to waste management.

I want to say to the member that I think he is unfairly characterizing what Metro Toronto is discussing. They have not reached a conclusion in any of their debates and what they are doing, as municipalities around the province are doing, is struggling to put together a comprehensive, integrated waste management system whereby the revenues from disposal are used to fund 3Rs.

What they did in the past under a previous government was put in a tipping fee without having in place any—on the other side of the balance or of the scales—markets for the recycled material, any kind of powers to order them to direct where waste is going. Those are exactly the kinds of programs that are part of our waste reduction initiatives and that I'm confident will lead not only Metro but all municipalities to have an integrated, comprehensive system. That has got to be the objective.

#### PETITIONS

##### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario which reads:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent, empirical studies of the impact that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

Those petitions have been signed by Dial One Temp Air Control, Rockwell International of Canada Ltd, the Merchants Mall Association and Cambridge Brass. I have signed my name to these petitions.

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** "Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded

that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

That's signed by 197 people from Orillia, Penetanguishene, Bracebridge, Port Sydney, Sydenham, Etobicoke, and I've affixed my name to it also.

#### MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

**Mr Bernard Grandmaitre (Ottawa East):** I have a petition objecting to the arbitrator's report for the greater London area which reads as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I have signed the petition.

#### EDUCATION FINANCING

**Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre):** I have two petitions. The first I am presenting on behalf of 236 parents of students at St Agatha Catholic school in my riding, and it says:

"We the parents and teachers of St Agatha school are concerned about the way in which Catholic education is funded by the Ontario government and Metropolitan Toronto."

"Although the separate schools were given the right in 1984 to provide education to the end of grade 12 OAC, they were never given equal funding. For example, in 1991, a Catholic elementary school child in Metro was educated on 75% of the money spent on his public school friend and the Catholic high school student was allotted only 70% of the money spent on his public school counterpart. These differences represent a shortfall of \$1,678 per student at the elementary level and \$2,502 at the high school level, leaving the separate school board \$198 million short of their Metro counterparts in total operating costs/revenue for the same number of students.

"The BNA of 1867 recognizes the right of Catholic students to a Catholic education. In keeping with this, the province of Ontario supports two educational systems, kindergarten to grade 12 OAC. Unfortunately this support is not equally divided among the separate school system and the public school system. Out of 30% of the students in Metro, only 20% of residential taxes go into the separate school coffers.

"We urge you to act now to restructure the way in which municipal and provincial tax dollars are apportioned so that

Ontario's two principal educational systems are funded not only fully but with equity and on an equal basis."

With that I affix my signature of support.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of all the people of Ontario," including all the people who have signed these petitions.

#### ONTARIO WASTE MANAGEMENT CORP

**Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln):** I have another petition to the Legislature of Ontario:

"Whereas the Ontario Waste Management Corp is proposing to build and operate a 'huge centralized' toxic waste incinerator and landfill site in the heart of Ontario's farm land, Niagara; and

"Whereas the toxic waste must be treated at the source because transportation of such huge volumes of toxic waste on our highways is suicidal;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario to change the mandate and directions being promoted by this crown corporation, OWMC."

On this petition I have 560 signatures from residents across Ontario and I affix my name to this petition.

#### REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand):** I have three petitions. The first petition is to the Legislature of Ontario, signed by 46 residents of the towns of Haldimand and Dunnville and adjoining areas:

"Whereas the Ontario government has indicated it has plans to open gambling establishments in Niagara and other locations in Ontario,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario to abandon such plans for legalized gambling."

I've affixed my signature.

1530

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to the Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery of the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

This is signed by 141 people from North York, Wallaceburg, Downsview and Weston, and to which I attach my signature.

#### LAND-LEASED COMMUNITIES

**Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York):** I have a petition here.

"We, the residents of a land-leased community, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake felt the previous government set up a committee to report on land-leased communities but took no specific action to protect these communities; and

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake feel it should be a priority of this government to release the report and take action to bring forward legislation on the following issues that surround land-leased communities; and

"Whereas the residents feel the government of Ontario should examine the problem of no protection against conversion to other uses which would result in the loss of home owners' equity; and

"Whereas the residents of these communities do not receive concise and clear information about their property tax bills; and

"Whereas there are often arbitrary rules set by landlords and owners of land-leased communities which place unfair restrictions or collect commissions on the resale of residents' homes; and

"Whereas there has been confusion resulting with the status of residents with long-term leases and where they fall under the rent review legislation,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to follow through and to release the committee report for land-leased communities and to propose legislation to give adequate protection to individuals who live in land-leased communities."

I have affixed my name.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South):** I am pleased to table a petition signed by concerned employers from my riding of Oakville South and from southeast Burlington, which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the proposed changes to the labour legislation will increase potential job losses and whereas they will cause a decline of investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery of a sound economic environment; and

"Whereas a recent public opinion poll showed that 83% of Ontario's citizens support the withdrawal of these proposed changes,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly as follows:

"To declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the existing labour legislation."

I have affixed my signature to it, and these are from the people of Oakville South.

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand):** Signed by 44 residents of the towns of Haldimand and Dunnville and adjoining areas, to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"The Ministry of Education has made evolutionism a compulsory core unit in senior OAC (previously grade 13) history and science. Since evolutionism and creationism are completed acts in the past, neither can be proven or disproven. In fairness to all parents and students, equal time should be given in presenting the underlying assumptions of each. Through the two-model approach, the skills of critical thinking such as recognition of bias, awareness of society's influence on one's bias and the awareness of assumptions can allow students to examine their own belief systems and better appreciate an opposing view. These skills should be incorporated into all textbooks, approved in circular 14, dealing with the question of origins."

I have affixed my signature to the petition.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** I have quite a number of names attached to the four petitions: 189, 148, 125 and 187. Not one was collected by Jack Layton, I might add, and not one cost a nickel for the province of Ontario to collect. I thought I might point that out as opposed to, say, \$300 a day.

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to the Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned"—and I have already mentioned that there are hundreds of signatures here, from places like Crystal Beach, Fort Erie, St Marys, Burlington, Timmins, Kingston, Windsor, Stratford, Dryden, Gloucester, Kirkton, Casselman and Don Mills, Agincourt, Scarborough and Thornhill—"petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I once again will add that Jack Layton didn't have to collect these; these are free. I will affix my signature as well.

## MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

**Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex):** I have a petition here signed by 45 citizens of the county of Middlesex who petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to reject the report of the greater London arbitrator, Mr John Brant. Many of us in Middlesex have grave concerns about the size of this annexation and the recommendations with the report and would like to emphasize the importance of protecting agricultural land in the area of Middlesex county. This is an issue of great concern and the utmost importance to my constituents and to me.

**Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand):** I have a similar petition to the Legislature of Ontario, presented by 23 residents of Middlesex county and area:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I affix my signature.

## TOBACCO TAXES

**Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville):** I have a petition to the honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario. It's a rather refreshing petition, and I'm glad to see the Treasurer is here. It says:

"We, the following flue-cured tobacco producers, express our sincere appreciation for the support and assistance provided to our industry by the local mayors, municipal officials, chambers of commerce, communities and businesses. We believe that your support and assistance was a major contributor and contributing factor in the government's decision to suspend the export tax and not increase taxation on tobacco products. We express our deep appreciation for a job very well done."

I have affixed my signature to this petition as well.

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** I have a petition that's signed by approximately 400 people. It reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario's labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in this province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

## REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Mr Runciman from the standing committee on government agencies presented the committee's sixth report.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Pursuant to standing order 104(g)(11), the report is deemed to be adopted by the House.

1540

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

RETAIL BUSINESS HOLIDAYS AMENDMENT ACT  
(SUNDAY SHOPPING), 1992LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI  
SUR LES JOURS FÉRIÉS  
DANS LE COMMERCE DE DÉTAIL  
(OUVERTURE DES COMMERCE LE DIMANCHE)

Mr Pilkey moved first reading of Bill 38, An Act to amend the Retail Business Holidays Act in respect of Sunday Shopping / Loi modifiant la Loi sur les jours fériés dans le commerce de détail en ce qui concerne l'ouverture des commerces le dimanche.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General):** I just want to indicate that the bill will eliminate Sunday from the current definition of holidays under the Retail Business Holidays Act, allowing stores in Ontario to open on Sundays with the exception of Easter Sunday, which is preserved as a holiday on which stores must close. The section of the act which permits stores to be open on Sundays in December will also be repealed, and the act will also make it possible for retailers who hold commercial leases to remain closed on Sundays if they wish, regardless of the terms of their lease. When the bill is passed, these amendments will come into force retroactive to today.

DUTCH CANADIAN ALLIANCE OF  
ONTARIO, INC. ACT, 1992

Mr Eves, on behalf of Mr Harnick, moved first reading of Bill Pr39, An Act to revive The Dutch Canadian Alliance of Ontario, Inc.

Motion agreed to.

LOI DE 1992 SUR LA SOCIÉTÉ  
DE LA SÉCURITÉ ROUTIÈRE DE L'ONTARIO  
ONTARIO ROAD SAFETY CORPORATION ACT, 1992

M. Pouliot propose la première lecture du projet de loi 39, Loi créant la Société de la sécurité routière de l'Ontario et modifiant certaines lois dont le ministre des Transports assure l'application / An Act to establish the Ontario Road Safety Corporation and to amend certain Acts administered by the Minister of Transportation.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation):** As members will recall, I outlined the government's plan to address road safety in the House last December. Today I am pleased to be introducing a bill that will allow for the creation of the Ontario Road Safety Corp, expected to be in operation by the fall of 1993. This organization will

provide provincial leadership and coordination in all matters relating to road safety. The goal of the Ontario Road Safety Corp is to reduce the number of collisions in Ontario and the terrible trauma that road crashes cause for so many of our citizens.

Reducing collisions and their costs requires attention to more than just driver behaviour, so the corporation will also have the mandate to improve the driving environment and alleviate the effects of crash injuries. Improved safety is an essential part of our government's auto insurance reform strategy. Fewer collisions will mean fewer claims, reduced health care and policing costs and, of course, lower premiums.

La Société de la sécurité routière de l'Ontario est le résultat d'une consultation entreprise auprès d'autres ministères et agences du secteur privé, des organismes de la promotion de la sécurité et de recherche et des organismes communautaires à travers toute la province.

The Ontario Road Safety Corp will be staffed by public servants. The corporation's board of directors will be appointed by the government and will report to the Minister of Transportation. The minister will be fully accountable to this House for the agency's activities. The Ontario Road Safety Corp will have much greater financial and operational flexibility than the government ministry. The new agency will be able to engage in revenue-producing activities, joint ventures and other activities to help the corporation maximize its effectiveness.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### POWER CORPORATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

#### LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LA SOCIÉTÉ DE L'ÉLECTRICITÉ

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for third reading of Bill 118, An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société de l'électricité.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** The member for Ottawa South.

**Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South):** At the time I was speaking on this yesterday, when the proceedings were terminated, I was questioning the wisdom of having Ontario Hydro subsidize the gas utilities through a fuel-switching program. That comment was made in the face of very clear evidence to the effect that at the present time people are switching to gas whenever they can and in ever-increasing numbers. The market forces are acting in the marketplace, and as a result people are making the switch whenever they possibly can.

One of the things we have to pay some attention to is the availability of natural gas, or other problems connected with that, if we're about to embark on a program whereby we're going to switch people from one fuel, one source for heating our homes, electricity, to another, natural gas. It is not without precedent that we've had some problems in these matters. In the past, governments have paid us—and it was the federal government at that time—to switch from oil to electricity. Now another government is going to tell us we should be switching off electricity, on to natural gas,

fuel oil or perhaps even wood. In fairness to our public, we should recognize that they are somewhat sceptical of governments getting involved in these kinds of things.

With respect to natural gas, I think we've got to consider, first of all, the fact that when we use natural gas to a greater degree than we already do we are to some extent exporting jobs. We are not generating the electricity within the province and that is a critical factor, particularly in light of the fact that we are in a recession and struggling to overcome that.

We also have to take into consideration the pipeline capacity. With increased usage of natural gas by our homes and our industry, we have to ask ourselves whether the pipelines can accommodate that. Furthermore, if we're going to switch to these combustion turbine units, there's going to be an additional need, a considerable need, in the future for natural gas supply and we've got to wonder about the capacity of the existing pipelines.

We've also got to wonder about the price. I submit that no one can offer any guarantees whatsoever with respect to price when it comes to the natural gas or other fuels we use to heat our homes, or industries for that matter. It's important to recognize as well that when we're using natural gas it is not entirely problem-free. It's a fossil fuel and commensurate with that are fogs relating to carbon dioxide emissions and nitrogen oxide. I guess the good thing it's got going for it, and we should recognize that as well, is that it does not have sulphur dioxide emissions.

Of course, the other thing we have to keep in mind in relation to natural gas is that it is a non-renewable resource and whenever possible—I'm sure the minister and his parliamentary assistant would agree with me in this regard—we should attempt, if we're going to switch people from one fuel to another, to give some emphasis, some priority, to our renewables. This is not a renewable.

Some of the pollution, of course, involved in the use of natural gas arises from the source and so we shouldn't be burying our heads in the sand, so to speak. We should recognize that when we use natural gas there'll be considerable pollution emanating from the source, as in Alberta. As we all well recognize today, air pollution does not recognize boundaries and sooner or later that pollution is going to catch up with us here in Ontario.

1550

Something which has given us some cause for concern of late in dealing with natural gas is the fact that the supply of natural gas is now a matter pursuant to the free trade agreement. It's something which must adhere to the rules of a continental market. What that means is that Alberta cannot give priority to Ontario in terms of price or supply. If we ever found ourselves in a position where some states to the south of us were obtaining a supply and we needed further supply and that could not be obtained, Alberta would not have the right to sever or decrease that supply flowing into the United States in order to give us some priority.

At the same time, we should also recognize that what we are doing when we give emphasis to natural gas is placing reliance on a source outside this province. We're becoming, to some degree, dependent on a third party to

supply us with a source of energy. We should not walk in that direction without being cognizant of some of the difficulties we're going to have to face along the way. Within the context of the constitutional discussions that are ongoing, that leads us to feel a little apprehensive—I think it should—a bit uncertain about what kind of future we're going to face and what kind of risks we are assuming when we make a decision today that we're going to rely on another province to provide us with a source of energy.

With respect to fuel substitution, we have not heard from this government and Ontario Hydro how they intend to go about subsidizing, financing and promoting or encouraging that initiative. We don't know whether they're going to proceed with loans, whether there are going to be grants, whether there are going to be forgivable loans, whether there's going to be a means test applied to the corporation looking for the subsidy. We don't know if there's going to be any preference given to any of the alternative fuels: fuel oil, natural gas or wood. I introduced an amendment during the committee hearings which would have had Hydro give some priority to renewable fuels, but that amendment was defeated.

We don't know where we're going in this regard, but a number of presenters offered us some constructive suggestions. I just want to read a very brief list of suggestions presented to us by Andrea Mitchell, chairperson of the Hydro-Electric Commission of Cambridge and North Dumfries. She presented these to the committee on January 29, 1992. She said in her submission to us:

"If the government elects to proceed with the proposed changes to the act, we urge that the following conditions be included in any fuel substitution program:

"1. That in order to qualify for the grant the home must be upgraded to current insulation and air sealing standards.

"2. That minimum efficiency standards be established for eligible equipment, ie, limited to high-efficiency gas furnaces.

"3. That participating contractors must be fully trained and qualified and be registered with the program.

"4. That an inspection be required for all installations and that an audit program be established to ensure the quality of installations meet all relevant safety and efficiency standards.

"5. That the Minister of Energy commit to producing and distributing a publication to provide customers with actual energy cost comparisons, realistic conversion costs and anticipated paybacks available from conversion to different fuel sources. One of the most common problems during the previous off-oil program was that consumers were faced with conflicting information on relative energy prices and often had unrealistic expectations of the benefits of conversion. This document should also provide comparisons with alternative expenditures on efficiency improvements.

"6. That a more realistic assessment of the potential for fuel substitution, given various incentive levels, be conducted in order to ensure that targets included in Ontario Hydro's future plans be achievable."

I think those are some very constructive suggestions offered by Ms Mitchell on behalf of Cambridge and North

Dumfries Hydro and it is my sincere hope that the minister and the folks at Ontario Hydro will pay close attention to them.

I paid close attention to a question asked earlier today by the member for Lanark-Renfrew with respect to the minister's commitment to obtaining input with respect to implementing fuel substitution and what forms that particular policy initiative should take. I want to remind the minister that on October 2, 1991, his ministry released a news release which quoted the minister as saying the following:

"The government recognizes the concerns that have been raised about the fuel substitution provisions. We have made a commitment to establish the criteria and appropriate financial mechanisms for implementing fuel substitution through further consultation."

It is my expectation and sincere hope the minister will follow through on that commitment and make a sincere effort to consult the parties that will be affected. Reference was made earlier in this House today to the London Public Utilities Commission. I had the opportunity and benefit of meeting with them. Those people have shown a great deal of initiative, I feel, in attempting to address the concerns that we have been dealing with within the context of Bill 118. It is my hope the minister will pay very close attention to that initiative. It's a rather interesting one. What they are doing is attempting, through load shifting for heating the hot water heaters, to reduce the peak demands of electricity within the jurisdiction of the London Public Utilities Commission.

One of the major concerns these people raised with me was that if they were to proceed with that initiative—which, by the way, they have found to be cost-effective both in terms of their costs and in terms of reducing the overall energy costs of their ratepayers—within the context of a massive campaign put on by Ontario Hydro to promote fuel substitution, they will simply be caught up in such a wave that their initiative will have no impact, no success and will be all for naught.

It's my hope the minister will pay close attention to that initiative and surely to other initiatives that are going to take place as a result of the sincere desire on the part of public utility commissions throughout the province to assist the ratepayers and reduce these ever-increasing hydro costs.

One of the things Bill 118 does, and you have to look at it in a global context, is it attempts to place the burden of implementing a comprehensive energy policy on one utility, one corporation; that is, Ontario Hydro. It's my feeling that the government should be giving direction to Ontario Hydro—there's no doubt whatsoever about that—but that it should be doing that in such a way as to encourage Ontario Hydro to minimize the environmental, economic and social costs in carrying out its mandate of providing us with power.

There has developed over the course of the history of our province a general reliance on Ontario Hydro. The notion that someone other than Ontario Hydro could fulfil a certain function in terms of providing us with electricity is one that strikes some as heretical, and it just simply makes others somewhat uncomfortable, but I think we

have an obligation in 1992 to look to other places to determine whether perhaps there's someone else out there who can provide us with energy in a more efficient manner. Of course, I'm referring to non-utility generators.

1600

With respect to this reluctance and this dependency that evolved in Ontario relating to Ontario Hydro, Mr Speaker, I want to tell you a little story that I think illustrates the point.

There was a father whose wife had died and the son visited the father from time to time, but he travelled throughout the world. He wanted to find something for his father that would lend him some comfort now that his mother was gone. His father had retired and had a sufficient amount of savings in the bank and was comfortable. So he went into a pet shop one day and he found a rather strange-looking yellow bird. He asked the sales clerk there something about this bird and the sales clerk said: "This is a rary. It's a very rare bird. It's flightless and it eats a lot, so the food bills are going to be expensive, but other than that it's something your father would probably enjoy."

So the son brought the rary home, showed it to his father and it was love at first sight. The father enjoyed the bird tremendously. It had beautiful yellow plumage and deep blue eyes. So the son left and he came back six months later. But when he came in the front door of the house and looked in the living room, he found this bird was now the size of a pony. So he turned to his father and said: "Dad, what's the idea here? Isn't this thing eating you out of house and home?" He said: "Son, it's expensive but I can't live without it. It's very, very comforting to me. Besides, look at those blue eyes."

So the son said, "All right, have it your way." He left and he came back a year later and he found the bird this time living in the garage, occupying the entire garage in fact. So the son said to the father, "Listen, surely this is reaching the point of being ridiculous." So the father conceded that he's had to put a mortgage on the house and to sell the car in order to feed this rary. He cannot convince the father that he should be getting rid of this creature, so he leaves and returns one year later. He knocks on the door, only to find that strangers have moved into the house. The strangers tell him: "Listen, your father had to sell the house. He moved out over to the end of town. He's camped out in front of the woods."

So the son gets into the car and drives to the edge of the woods. On the way there he sees what he believes to be either a sunrise or a sunset, but as he approaches it he finds that this rary has grown to this tremendous size. Camped beside there in a tent is the father. So the son says, "Listen, I can't take it any more." He goes back to town, he gets a large flatbed truck, rents one of those, and he gets somebody else with a crane and they bring the flatbed truck over to the rary and they lift it gently on to the flatbed truck. They drive it to the edge of the cliff. He says to the father: "It's your bird. You've kept him all this time. You're going to have to push him over." The father looks at the son; he looks into those beautiful blue eyes of the rary; he looks down at the bottom of the cliff and he says, "Son, it's a long way to tip a rary."

The point is that Ontario Hydro is not unlike that rary. It has reached the point where, notwithstanding that it is eating us out of house and home, notwithstanding that Ontario Hydro is costing us tremendous amounts of money, notwithstanding that the facts have shown it is not operating efficiently, notwithstanding that we've just been advised that the level of productivity is the lowest in North America in relation to comparable utilities, notwithstanding all that, we continue to express this tremendous desire to continue our dependence on Ontario Hydro.

**Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale):** Can you tell us another one of these stories? I like them.

**Mr McGuinty:** Okay, be good and I will.

What the government is trying to do with respect to Ontario is, I guess, jump into the front of the boat and do some rowing when it should stay in the back of the boat and do some steering.

I want to review some of the amendments I put forward on behalf of our party with respect to Bill 118 in an effort to ensure that if we are going to take steps to better control Ontario Hydro, there is in fact some real transparency, some real openness which the minister and the parliamentary assistant have so often talked about but which, to my mind, do not really exist and will not exist with the implementation of Bill 118.

Just to reiterate why there will be no openness and there will be no transparency with respect to Bill 118 when it comes to the matter of policy directives, if this government chooses to issue a policy directive to Ontario Hydro, it will not discuss that policy directive in this House. It will not be subject to debate. If it proceeds with a policy directive, that policy directive will not be discussed in caucus. It was not in the case of the policy directive issued to Ontario Hydro in connection with Elliot Lake. The only place that policy directive's going to be discussed is in cabinet, and if that is openness, if that is transparency, then I will have nothing of it.

I am going to go over some of the amendments I put forward which I felt would lend some certainty as to what Hydro's role was and to ensure that there really was transparency and openness as directives were issued.

One of the amendments I made was that we define energy conservation programs to ensure that they were restricted to conserving electrical energy. That was defeated. Technically, under the terms of the Power Corporation Act right now, Ontario Hydro could become involved in conserving the amount of propane a car uses, or gasoline or oil or anything of that nature dealing with any other kind of energy source, and it's my contention that Hydro's job should be in relation to electricity and to conserve electrical energy; it shouldn't be in the business of conserving any other form of energy.

Another amendment that was put forward by my party was the—before I get to that, perhaps I should note that the Consumers' Association of Canada, the Ontario section, paid a visit to us during the course of our committee work. With respect to this business of increasing the number of directors from 14 to 18, they indicated to us that unless there was a reason, some kind of evidence to make the change,

they, as a very credible representative group speaking to us on behalf of consumers in Ontario, were very, very leery, they were very reluctant to increase the numbers for the sake of having a larger number of people sitting on the board of directors.

I think it's also important to note that all we're really doing when we're increasing the number from 14 to 18 is increasing the number of people who are going to have to do as they are told when it comes to policy directives. That's exactly what happened in the case of the policy directive issued to Ontario Hydro in connection with Elliot Lake. Those directors were exempted from liability, and it's significant that the chairman himself, the person at the top, who is charged with the special responsibility of looking out for the interests of ratepayers, is also absolved from liability, it is my understanding, as long as he does what the government tells him.

Maybe the real question here is, do we any longer need a board of directors? Maybe it would facilitate the government's aims if we were to simply remove the board, rather than to simply supplement the existing number of directors, who are going to have to abide by the government's instructions in any event.

Another amendment I put forward was in relation to the liability of directors. I put forward an amendment which would have provided that directors would have had to exercise a duty of care with respect to their work, and the care of course was owed to their ratepayers. What my amendment did was to impose a positive duty on directors, and it specifically provided that they could not be excluded from that liability, as Bill 118 purports to do and as it will do once it becomes law in Ontario.

1610

What the amendment I put forward says is that as a director, you can't get off the hook as a result of putting something in a contract, a resolution, a bylaw or directive. They always have to fulfil the duty of care; that's going to be paramount. It doesn't matter what the government tells the directors. At the end of the day they're going to be held accountable for exercising a duty of care which is set out there. Again, if it is not a duty that is particularly onerous, the amendment provides that they would be fulfilling that duty if they were to place reliance and good faith on financial statements, reports of auditors, advice from lawyers, accountants, engineers and so on.

So it wasn't a particularly onerous duty of care; it just said you've got to exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances. It just ensured that in doing anything, the director was going to have to put the interests of the ratepayers first and foremost.

Another amendment we put forward required that the board was going to have a duty to report to the minister whenever it exercised a power or performed a duty to which the policy directive related. Furthermore, it required that the board specify the actual or estimated cost of giving effect to the directive. What we were trying to do there, of course, was to ensure that we became fully cognizant of the true costs associated with carrying out a policy directive.

The Ontario Energy Board has already indicated to us in relation to the HR 20. That was the report of the board dealing with Hydro's proposed electricity rates for 1992. It indicated to us quite clearly that the conservation measures which had then been put in place by Ontario Hydro were simply not cost-effective. This type of amendment I had proposed would have required at least that we be provided with information so that at the end of the day we could make an intelligent judgement as to whether in fact following a policy directive was going to be cost-effective. If we're talking about accountability, if we're really talking about openness, it's that kind of provision that would ensure that we have the facts at our fingertips so we could make a judgement.

Another amendment I put forward—and I'm going to have to commend the parliamentary assistant for this one; he took our advice, not as far as we wished but nevertheless he responded to it very positively—was a recommendation that when the government issues a policy directive, I simply requested that the directive be made public. The parliamentary assistant agreed to that. It was a very simple amendment.

I think it was important to note that the government has decided that it's not going to allow us to debate policy directives. They're not going to consult people with respect to policy directives and they're not going to advise caucus and allow discussion for caucus with respect to policy directives. Rather they're simply going to make them public. I asked in my amendment that there be some kind of deadline imposed with respect to making that policy directive public. I had asked for seven days, but Bill 118, as amended, does not provide for any deadline.

I want to quote Mr Paul McKay, who is I would say one of the more learned people with respect to the goings-on of Ontario Hydro in this province. He was the policy adviser to the former Minister of Energy. In a presentation before us he said the following:

"This is the price of secret policy directives. The danger and the temptation for governments to use Hydro in this way will always remain, regardless of political stripe, as long as secrecy does. I am pleased to see that the proposed amendments will compel Hydro to follow the policy direction set up by the Legislature, and I believe the changes to the Hydro board structure will help bring a broader public voice to the boardroom. However, I see no explicit requirement for cabinet or the Minister of Energy to publish the policy directives to Hydro.

"Accordingly, I would like to see subsection 9a(1) amended to read: 'The minister may issue policy directives that have been approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and such directives must be made public within 15 days of issuance.'"

This gentleman, who was one of the primary architects in connection with Bill 118, advocated that if we really are going to make this business of issuing directions for Ontario Hydro open and transparent, then there ought to be a deadline, a time frame, within which such a directive must be made public.

Another amendment that we put forward was in relation to the business of the corporation. We would have,

through our amendment, restricted the business of the corporation to the generation, transmission, distribution, supply, sale and use of power. Again, this was simply to clarify for all concerned what precisely Ontario Hydro was all about.

It also went on to indicate that in case there was any confusion in this regard—and there is from time to time—Ontario Hydro's mandate provides that it will supply us with power at cost. The minister may want to consider this at some point in the future. There has always been some confusion in relation to this business of supplying power at cost. It has been interpreted over the years somewhat subjectively.

Even of late, in this matter of Elliot Lake, the good people of Elliot Lake were in desperate need of financial assistance when Ontario Hydro was directed to supply some \$225 million to them. The chairman of Ontario Hydro, Mr Marc Eliesen, told me before the committee it was his considered opinion that this fell within Ontario Hydro's mandate of supplying us with power at cost. Just so we fully understand that, some \$65 million of that \$225 million was used to pay off municipal debts and to initiate some short-term job creation programs; worthy causes undoubtedly, but what they have to do with supplying the people of this province with power at cost, I, for the life of me, simply cannot understand.

In another amendment, what I attempted to do was to restrict the purpose of an energy conservation program to encouraging the safe and efficient use of electrical energy. With respect to other forms of energy conservation, that is a matter for the Minister of Energy and for the ministry generally to undertake. Again, it is not the role, the mandate, of Ontario Hydro to engage in energy conservation in a comprehensive manner throughout the province. Ontario Hydro's role is to look out for its ratepayers and to initiate programs that will conserve electrical energy.

NDP Environmental Policy in the Turnaround Decade: A Review of Ontario NDP Environmental Policy is a publication that came out in November 1990, put out by the environment committee. It says, "The responsibility for achieving greater energy efficiency would be separated from Ontario Hydro and delivered by a crown agency responsible directly to the Minister of Energy." I think that is good advice given to us by the environmental policy committee of the NDP in November 1990. I think the minister should pay heed to that.

1620

In another amendment, we proposed, "An energy conservation program may provide information, advice and inspection services in respect of the use of electrical energy if in the opinion of the corporation these will result in cost savings to the corporation or to users of electrical energy."

My amendment also went on to provide, "An energy conservation program may include the substitution of other forms of energy for electrical energy if the substitution would result in cost savings to users of electrical energy."

The amendment finally provided that there was an obligation on the part of Ontario Hydro to give priority to renewable energy sources whenever there was going to be a fuel substitution program put in place.

What I was saying there is that there is nothing wrong with Ontario Hydro getting into the energy conservation program business, but it's got to result at all times in cost savings to the corporation or users of electrical energy, not to users of other forms of energy, which could be brought about through the implementation of Bill 118 at the present time, since it contains no specific restrictions regarding the creation of a fuel substitution program.

I also indicated through that amendment that it was perfectly acceptable for Hydro to get into the business of fuel switching, but again there's an important proviso there; that is, Hydro can do that as long as it results in cost savings to users of electrical energy.

The last amendment I want to make reference to deals with a requirement that Ontario Hydro file a report in March of every year to the minister and to the members of this House "...specifying the cost of each energy conservation program undertaken by the corporation and the benefits achieved, including the quantity, if any, of additional electrical generation avoided or planned to be avoided."

Again, what I was attempting to do there was to put in place another provision that would guarantee some of the openness and transparency this government has talked so much about during the course of the life of Bill 118. My amendment would have placed a requirement on Ontario Hydro that it file a report with the minister and with the assembly. I think that would have been the responsible thing to do to ensure that we get a full briefing from Hydro as to what the results of any energy programs would be.

I think it's important to note that Ontario Hydro has now embarked on a course where it's going to be spending some \$6 billion on energy conservation programs from now until the year 2000 or 2002. That's an astonishingly large sum of money. I am very concerned about the manner in which it is going to be spent and very concerned whether it is going to result at the end of the day in benefits to Hydro's ratepayers.

In that regard, I want to caution the minister. I want to bring to his attention once again some of the comments made by the Ontario Energy Board, a body which has acquired considerable expertise in matters of energy and Ontario Hydro and which surely can be considered objective in its dealings with Ontario Hydro.

I'm going to quote from page 29 of the report of the board, HR 20. That report was one prepared in relation to Hydro's proposed electricity rates for 1992. The board made the following findings:

"The board is very concerned with the cost-effectiveness of Hydro's energy management expenditures. Since HR 19, Hydro has increased substantially its energy management expenditures, partly in response to the government directive to redirect nuclear pre-engineering expenditures. The board notes Hydro's testimony that the additional expenditures are not planned to result in additional long-term savings. Hydro has expressed some hope that they may do so, but the board questions the usefulness of spending the money based on hopes of future savings."

I continue with the quote. It says:

"In short, the board finds that the additional expenditures will not likely result in cost-effective energy management

savings, but only in additional costs and lost revenue in the short term. In the board's view, this is not short-term pain for long-term gain, rather this is short-term pain for little or no gain. The fact that Hydro is struggling to spend the funds is of little comfort to the board."

Finally, I'll conclude with a recommendation made by the energy board in this particular report. It says:

"The board recommends that Hydro assign priorities to its energy management programs on the basis of program cost-effectiveness. Hydro also should emphasize the measurement and monitoring of savings in its energy management funding process. The board recommends that Hydro re-examine anticipated energy management expenditures in 1992 against these objectives."

What I was attempting to do through my amendments which were proposed in committee during clause-by-clause was to address the very recommendations made by the Ontario Energy Board. I was attempting to ensure that the people of this province could gain a clear understanding of what it was the government was directing Ontario Hydro to do whenever it did so, a clear understanding of the proposed costs of such an undertaking and, finally, a clear understanding at the end of the day of what the net result of those initiatives prove to be.

In this matter of costs, I want to emphasize once again that what we have today in this province in relation to energy, in relation to Ontario Hydro, as our most serious issue, is the issue of skyrocketing rates. We are witnessing skyrocketing rates in the context of a severe recession.

The government's response to this problem has been to implement an energy conservation program. It has set for itself some very ambitious targets, and surely that is a noble objective and we have to make a sincere attempt to achieve those targets, but at the same time, being a government, this government has a responsibility to be responsible in terms of setting those targets.

But back to this issue of rates and the conservation initiatives: We have been advised just recently, as a result of materials filed with the Ontario Energy Board, which is looking into the matter of the 8.6% general rate increase proposed by Ontario Hydro for 1993, that over the course of the next four years, the net costs of Hydro's implementing the conservation programs is going to be some \$2 billion; \$1.9 billion in fact. What we can conclude is that the government's response to the skyrocketing rates lies in conservation but that the manner in which it is implementing its conservation programs is going to result at the end of the day in an increase in our Hydro rates. The proposed solution is in fact leading to an aggravation of the existing problem.

I want to make it clear that my party certainly favours energy conservation, and in fact I don't recall one presenter appearing before our committee who did not espouse, either explicitly or implicitly, energy conservation. However, what I am questioning, just as the Ontario Energy Board did, is the effectiveness of the programs that are presently in place at Ontario Hydro as a result of directions received from this government.

1630

I am going to wind up and request that the minister and the parliamentary assistant give serious consideration to striking a committee of this House that would study the Hydro issue and energy policy in a more comprehensive manner so that we can get under way in this province an intelligent approach to dealing with the energy issues we face today.

At the present time—and it's symptomatic of Bill 118—the government is attempting to address energy policy in a comprehensive manner through Ontario Hydro. I say that is unacceptable and it's going to result in additional costs to the ratepayers who are already struggling under the weight of ever-increasing rates.

To summarize, Bill 118 attempts to control Ontario Hydro. I guess "control" is not the proper word. The net result will be that it will dominate Ontario Hydro. It has removed the ability from Hydro's board of directors to act in the interests of ratepayers. The bill fails to recognize the important distinction between ratepayers and taxpayers.

The other thing the bill does is that it's going to enable Ontario Hydro to promote fuel substitution. Hydro is going to pay people to switch off electricity and on to another fuel for purposes of heating or other matters. We're very concerned, given the record of this government and the comments made by the Ontario Energy Board with respect to Hydro's conservation programs generally, as to what that is really going to mean for ratepayers. We have every reason, given the record, as I say, to expect that at least initially such a fuel substitution program, as the public utility people have been telling us, will result in an increase in rates.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Questions or comments?

**Mr Ruprecht:** As you know, we listen very carefully to the member for Ottawa South when he speaks on the issue of Hydro and how Hydro affects rates at present. He raises a number of very important points that I would hope the Minister of Energy will take seriously and will provide this party with an answer. One of the more important points he's raised, of course, is the directorship increases from 14 to 18.

When the Consumers' Association of Canada appeared before the committee and made that very point and asked that very question to Hydro, why is it the minister was unable to give us a correct answer? Since the government is trying to be politically correct in so many other issues, we would expect a politically correct answer to the increase of directorships from 14 to 18.

Second, the member indicated that the Power Corporation Act empowers Hydro to get involved in other sources of energy and the saving thereof. The question, of course, that should also be asked is, should Hydro, in terms of reducing its rates today to those who are unable to afford any increases and are consequently losing—as he indicated, the yellow bird will take over the house. In short, Hydro rates not only will inevitably eat up the savings but will be a terrible misuse in terms of reducing the ability of people to pay these rates.

The question that should really be asked is should Hydro not concentrate, in terms of looking for savings, on the electrical energy field itself or should it be empowered to go abroad and look at other sources of energy as well.

**Mr Bob Huget (Sarnia):** I followed with interest the couple of days' journey through Bill 118, both real and imagined, on behalf of the member of the opposition party. I notice he raises some concerns, as did the previous speaker, about the size of Hydro's board and suggested in his speech that we should have done some kind of a study as to whether or not that would be a wise thing to do.

I find that instruction a little strange at this time, because unfortunately the previous government saw no need for such a study in 1989 when it increased the board by four members. Quite clearly, an increased board will mean a wider representation of public interests, and that can only be in everyone's best interests.

The member also expressed concern about Hydro participating in economic development, and again I'm a little confused. Provisions relating to Hydro's participation in economic development were enacted in 1989 by—guess who?—the previous government, the member's government.

As well, there was some concern about openness and accountability, and we've introduced proactively an amendment that requires the Minister of Energy to publish policy directives in the Ontario Gazette and to give notice to all members of the Legislative Assembly from all parties. We have nothing to hide.

The member has expressed concerns about the recent rate increases, and we too are concerned. But let's be clear about where these high rates come from. They are a result of decisions made by previous governments. More than half of the 1992 increase is due to the nuclear program. Up to three quarters of the proposed 1993 increase is due to Darlington. These rate increases underscore the importance of this government's new energy directions. Increased energy efficiency and conservation will reduce customers' bills.

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** I rise to compliment the member for Ottawa South on his fine presentation this afternoon and yesterday afternoon. I served with the member on the resources development committee as the committee travelled the province on Bill 118, and I believe that he evaluated and brought out a number of very interesting points with respect to this bill.

I don't want to get into great detail because I hope to speak on this bill as well, but I think we have seen the response to this bill that came from the opposition parties. We were able to work quite productively together in the committee and I think that was due to a very positive attitude that was brought forward by the Liberal Party and by our own party.

Unfortunately that didn't yield all that many results. The government did not listen to our amendments, did not particularly listen to many of the presentations that were coming forward from professional organizations, from business, from public utilities commissions, all of which brought forward excellent points that were totally ignored, as far as I am concerned, by the government side.

I'm not going to take my full two minutes. I just wanted to compliment the member for Ottawa South on his fine presentation and look forward to the rest of the debate this afternoon.

**Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin):** I too wish to convey my appreciation of the work done by the Energy critic for the official opposition, the member for Ottawa South.

I would like to go back into the public hearing process, of which I was not a part, but what concerned me and what should concern most members is that the impact in this bill is most severely felt on rural Ontario and on northern, rural Ontario in particular. I won't go into the reasons for that other than to say that those are the people who will be most severely impacted by the rate increases because clearly the energy consumption in those places from Hydro sources is of course the greatest.

I was very concerned when the committee was planning where it would go, where it would conduct public hearings. I said to my friend the member for Ottawa South: "See if we can go to some of the small rural communities, the communities that don't have natural gas. See if we can take them to Gore Bay or to Mindemoya, someplace where real people live, real people who don't have the opportunity to go to natural gas." Mr McGuinty, unfortunately, reported to me that the government said, "No way. We won't go out where those real people are. We won't go out to Wikwemikong. We won't go out to West Bay. We won't go to Spanish. We won't go to any of these places because we only want to go to the cities where there is natural gas. We want to go where there is a big media audience."

But who is most severely impacted by the provisions that are inherent in Bill 118? It is my constituents. It is the constituents of members from rural municipalities, representing rural areas, representing farms, representing farmers. That is who is most severely impacted, and this government, through its majority on the committee, would not agree to go out and talk to the people who would be most impacted because this government did not want to hear the bad news that my constituents are unhappy.

1640

**The Deputy Speaker:** The member for Ottawa South, you have two minutes to reply.

**Mr McGuinty:** I want to take the opportunity to thank my fellow members for their comments. The member for Algoma-Manitoulin of course raises a very good point, one which relates to the equity of Bill 118 and the inequity that is going to result when the fuel-substitution program is implemented. It's been made perfectly clear to us today, as a result of information we recently received—and this was to be expected, of course—that when you lower your sales you're going to have to charge more for each unit sold. That applies if you're operating a corner store where you have fixed costs of rent and insurance and taxes, and the same thing applies with Hydro: You still have to pay for your employees, you have to pay for the costs of generation and the cost of transmission. All those things are going to result in increasing rates.

When the people who are in the more populous areas of this province are able to take advantage of the fuel-substitution program and thereby lower their overall energy usage, the rates are going to go up. As a result, those who are living in areas which simply do not have access to natural gas and will not have access to natural gas—I think we have to take it for granted that there are some areas in this province which are just too remote to make it economical for natural gas to reach them—are going to see their rates go up.

In addition, there are some people who do not wish to switch to natural gas, and those people too are going to see their rates go up. Perhaps that is one of the most glaring deficiencies in Bill 118: that it does not attempt to address that kind of inequity.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

**Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew):** I take this as a special privilege this afternoon to have the opportunity to review Bill 118. I wonder if we're not really making history here this afternoon, because I have three copies of Bill 118: one is the Honourable Jenny Carter, Minister of Energy, one is the Honourable W. Ferguson, Minister of Energy, and one is the Honourable B. Charlton, Minister of Energy. Does this simple fact not indicate to the people of Ontario really the true problem Ontario is facing, not only with Bill 118 but with this government and its flip-flop and indecision today? Three ministers of Energy just while we're trying to process one bill: Is that not a record in itself?

I'm sure when the Honourable Jenny Carter introduced this bill, in a hurry, I might say, in June 1991, she had reason to do so at that time without perhaps enough deep thought into the real effects it might have across this province. I know she has stated very clearly, and it's on the record, that she needed this bill to ensure that there was a moratorium on nuclear energy, the same as she said, "I need a chairman who will not only put a moratorium on nuclear energy but will maintain that moratorium." And so that has been done. Not only that, but the government has been successful in increasing the number of members on the board, naturally with members who will also support a moratorium on nuclear energy.

I say, before I spend the people's time on this bill, that the minister—whoever's going to decide which minister it is; the acting minister, I assume, who's not in the House—should really at this time, in all fairness to the people of Ontario and Ontario Hydro, just withdraw the bill. The bill is so badly flawed that it hasn't got a chance of leading this province out of the recession we're in. It's going to mess up not only Ontario Hydro but industry.

As you know, Mr Speaker, Ontario Hydro used to be known as the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario. At that time it was very much controlled by the government. As the utility grew, the government of the day was smart enough to realize that this could no longer be an arm of the government: "This is now a large corporation. We must recognize it as such and we must set up the proper legislation so that in fact it can operate as a corporation." The government of the day did that. It dropped the

name Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario and called it Ontario Hydro, a corporation with a board of directors, a president, a chief executive officer and a chairman.

In those days we were moving from the general development of hydraulic sites to a major investment in steam—not only steam but the different methods of creating steam. As you know, coal and natural gas were certainly considered and used, but the research department of Ontario Hydro, in conjunction with Atomic Energy of Canada, saw that to have an independent supply for Ontario in the future it was necessary and wise to take a really good look at the use of uranium to create the heat through its action to make the steam for the generation of power. They proceeded with that.

I can recall that in those early days when we were in the development of Pickering we had members of the New Democratic Party, who feared nuclear energy because they didn't understand it and made no effort to understand it, doing many things. They were trying to block machinery coming on to the site, climbing flagpoles and basically making a nuisance out of themselves. Of course, progress did take place, and Canada, Ontario especially, is the leader in the generation of power through nuclear energy.

I think the government should realize what it's doing here with Bill 118. With the demands for power that we have today and having their own chairman and the board of directors very responsive to them, they don't need this bill at all. The board of directors doesn't have any power because the Minister of Energy has the right to overpower the board. It says in the bill:

"10(3) Compliance with a policy directive shall be considered to be in the best interests of the corporation.

"(4) The corporation may do such things as in its opinion are necessary, usual or incidental to the furtherance of the objectives set out in a policy directive."

But think about this, Mr Speaker: "(5) The directors shall ensure that policy directives are implemented promptly and efficiently."

1650

If you were a director sitting on that Hydro board and you received a directive from the Minister of Energy, with that kind of an amendment to the Power Corporation Act what alternative would you have but to implement it immediately? Then they relieve the director of his worry or concern because they say, "(6) A director is not accountable for any consequences arising from the implementation of a policy directive if he or she acted honestly and in good faith in relation to its implementation."

My God, certainly he acted honestly and in good faith. He was directed to do it by the Minister of Energy.

Then, "(7) The board shall report to the minister whenever it exercises a power or performs a duty to which a policy directive relates." You can understand what the government is doing with Bill 118. Certainly it is not bringing Ontario Hydro back to the people; it is bringing Ontario Hydro back to the members of the government.

I would like to remind the government that I was elected in the riding of Lanark-Renfrew and I would like the opportunity, on major government directives going over to Hydro, to have a chance to debate them here in this

House on behalf of the people. What has happened to democracy here is the same as is happening with all the other legislation. It's not being brought forward; it's being held back. Then when it is brought forward, they don't want debate; they don't want discussion. They want us to rubber-stamp it, get it through, and "Let's go with it because we're doing it anyhow."

That's not only happening in this House; it happened all across the province of Ontario on Bill 118. We had people put themselves out to a great extent to come to give evidence before that committee on the fallacies and the problems with this bill. The parliamentary assistant, if he wants to pretend he was part of that committee, would only have to say that they completely ignored 25 major utilities and 15 large industries that came before us and told us what was going to happen to Ontario Hydro and Ontario Hydro rates if this bill was allowed to pass. They pleaded with us to ask the government to withdraw this bill, which we did, and we asked the government to refer it to a committee on energy, period; let's look at all energies, not just electricity.

They didn't listen. They would like to say: "We went across the province. We consulted. We listened." The only thing they did to try to appease the Municipal Electric Association was state that they would not issue a policy directive that was outside the Power Corporation Act. Of course, this was an attempt to blindfold the Municipal Electric Association to the fact that they wouldn't introduce social programs and so on to be paid on your hydro bill. But, you see, by Bill 118, when it receives third reading and becomes part of the Power Corporation Act, it's quite clear they've given themselves the right.

Let me read section 4:

"(3) An energy conservation program may include, but is not limited to, the following:

"1. The safe use of energy."

That's all energy. The cost of that is on your hydro bill, not on your gas bill, not on your oil bill; it's on your hydro bill.

"2. The improvement of an energy system in a building."

Think about that. Think about how quickly \$6 billion is going to disappear on all these different aspects that they're free to move about and implement without question.

"3. The substitution of other forms of energy for electrical energy."

It doesn't say anything about the substitution of electrical energy for other forms of energy. Absolutely not. I can tell you many areas where electrical energy is a good substitution for oil or natural gas and is more efficient and can do the job better, and industry is going to do that in spite of handouts from this government.

"5. The reduction of electrical energy use through more efficient use of energy.

"6. The shifting of electrical loads from times of high demand to times of lower demand."

Industry has been doing this for years. Any large industry that's managing its costs is not waiting on direction from the Minister of Energy, or Ontario Hydro either. Most of them have implemented very good plans.

This conservation program, by the way, that they've given all the new names to has been in place since about 1967. I swear all they did was take the old manuals and put new covers on them and give it a different name, because an energy audit is an energy audit; I don't care how you want to name it or what book you want to put it in. But an energy audit is a very commonsense approach to conservation of energy in a building.

I would suggest to the Minister of Energy, if he's serious, that he start right here at Queen's Park. We met the other night and we couldn't stay in the room; the rads were so hot you couldn't touch them and the windows were wide open. Here we are paying \$150 an audit throughout Ontario, telling other people how to conserve energy. What are we doing here? We have the whole Legislature lighted to suit television cameras. In my opinion, this should be assessed. I'd like to know the candlepower that's being used here.

When you go out any door, be it the east door, the south or any of them—I find the east door wide open regardless of temperature. I find the doors lacking up to an inch of meeting, and yet these people want us to believe they are serious about energy conservation. I think it's like anything else: Clean up your own backyard before you start out beating a trail to the other customers of Ontario Hydro.

Section 5 is kind of dangerous. It says: "As part of an energy conservation program, the corporation may, in addition to its powers under subsection (1)"—now listen carefully—"loan such money and provide such incentives and other assistance as the corporation determines in order to assist in the carrying out of the program."

You see what they're going to try to do. We'll take Perth, Smiths Falls, Carleton Place, Almonte, Renfrew—any of the towns in my riding. We have a public utilities commission elected by the people. We have a chairman and a manager. We have identity.

1700

As I understand it, the mandate of Ontario Hydro is to supply and deliver electrical energy to my community at cost. I will pay Ontario Hydro—"I" meaning the utility—for the kilowatt at that metering point and I, as part of the utility, will have it delivered to my customers as I determine what the rates and the marketing program should be.

You talk about disentanglement from municipal governments, but we're doing the exact opposite here. We are entangling ourselves so much with Ontario Hydro that there won't be a corporation any more; it will just be an arm of the government, a commission of the government. You still will not have the right—and I'd like to discuss this with the Minister of Municipal Affairs—to come inside the parameter of my community and dictate a marketing policy to my elected representatives who have been placed there by the people to look after the retail of electrical energy to us who live there.

What's happening is, you see, if they hit a small utility and the small utility says, "We can't afford to participate in this program," the government's saying, "We'll loan you the money." As part of an energy conservation program, the corporation, not the government now, may in addition

to its powers under subsection (1) loan such money and provide such incentives and other assistance as the corporation determines in order to assist in carrying out the program.

Can't you see what's going to happen? A small utility, perhaps not well informed, is going to be sold a marketing program that will eventually be the means of abolishing that utility completely because of the debt that will be built up. I am really tired of listening to this government talking about, "A kilowatt saved is a kilowatt made." It forgets all about the kilowatt to be sold. It forgets all about the revenue you need to operate the utility.

The utility's income now is getting so close to the interest on the money owed that it's at a dangerous point. I can tell you, and it's recently stated here, Hydro now plans to withdraw \$93 million from its rate stabilization fund this year instead of—what it had planned to do was add \$50 million. Just two months ago it said it was going to add \$50 million to its reserve. Now it says it can't do that, it is going to have to withdraw \$93 million.

The slumping Ontario economy plus the effects of energy conservation are eating into Hydro's revenues. It's not the right time, if there ever is a right time, for such spending of the people's money to reduce revenues to the utility as is happening today, because I can assure you what the end result is. I've told this in committee and I've told it here in the House that, like any other business, the smaller the number of units sold the higher the unit cost. That's exactly where we're headed: to a very expensive electrical essential service, you might say, because I can tell you that only the upper-middle-income and the ones above in a year and a half will be able to afford their hydro.

That's what we're looking at. Is that what we want? Look back over the years at Ontario Hydro, when it was the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario. The sign in any community was, "Hydro is yours, use it." The government of the day saw fit in some cases to assist in getting rural lines across this province. That leadership, along with keeping in mind a certainty of supply and certainty of cost to industry, made Ontario what it is today.

You cannot sit down at a conference table with industry and make any sense by saying, "Yes, we think we can supply you. We've got this conservation program and it's working, so if we can have kilowatts saved here we'll be able to let you use them after you establish in Ontario." That's not how you deal with industry coming into Ontario. They can go across the border and get a five-year guarantee on rates and service.

I don't think that when the minister, the Honourable Jenny Carter, introduced this bill, she had any idea of the consequences. I think the idea of the bill at that time was simply to get control of Ontario Hydro. As my colleague mentioned, we went across the province with this committee, and it was a very congenial committee with a lot of communication on a one-to-one basis and I can say I thoroughly enjoyed it.

The people who came forward to speak on Bill 118 were anything from individuals to presidents and vice-presidents of companies. But our sincere hope was that with the kind of reception we got across the province the

members there would collectively say: "This bill is not required. We do have faith in Ontario Hydro. We do have faith in their board of directors. We do have faith in their research department. We do have faith in their environmental department."

The environmental studies that go on within Ontario Hydro before they're ever presented to the outside Environmental Assessment Board are exceptional. I doubt if there's any other corporation that does it in such detail as Ontario Hydro does, with the customers and the people generally their main interest. They have a heavy obligation to a constant supply of power at reasonable rates.

Under the presidency of Bob Franklin this study was done over a five-year period—very detailed, very easy to read and understand. Do you know what happened very quickly? In I think five months this is what we found from the present Ministry of Energy through Ontario Hydro. It is called Update 1992. You can imagine the time and research that have gone into this as compared to this and you can imagine the confidence the people in the province had in the original study as compared to this study today.

The minister will probably say that the economy is different, that the recession is here and that there is time or a need to change the approach, but to just have that one objective: Kill nuclear energy at any cost, regardless.

In this document, Ontario Hydro wasn't putting all its eggs in one basket. No, they had been doing, and I don't know if they're still doing, a lot of research on the Candu system. They had a small generating plant of about 450 megawatts almost ready to be considered for construction. But in here was the study of hydraulic sites, the study of the use of oil and natural gas and the study of the rehabilitation of the older existing plants. They are all included here and very well done, if anybody wants to take the time to study it.

1710

I know the Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario is meeting at every opportunity it can. They come to my office to see if there isn't some way we can block, or plead with the government to stop, implementation of Bill 118. They want Ontario Hydro to stay a corporation. They want Ontario Hydro to have a good board of directors that is answerable to the people, that can make good decisions for the province and that will relay them and keep in contact with the government through the chairman. If we could revert to that, you would find that we would once again have a very efficient utility in the province of Ontario.

I don't think I need to say any more about the board of directors, because increasing it in number and having the deputy minister sit on it to make sure their directives are carried out is not giving any confidence to the people in the province. They told us that at the meetings.

I might move on to fuel switching. This is something that is causing the Municipal Electric Association a great lot of concern. This is one of the main things in this bill that's going to interfere with the democracy of my home utility. This acting Minister of Energy—we've had three now—is going to dictate to my utility what marketing programs shall be in place. They're going to start providing

incentives. There are many ways. If a utility doesn't conform under this bill, it won't have much choice.

What we can see happening here without consultation—my colleague has stated to me: "Oh yes, we have consulted. We consulted with the executive of the Municipal Electric Association." I'm sorry; one of the most progressive utilities in the province of Ontario says this:

"Ontario Hydro has unilaterally announced specific fuel substitution targets and called for strategic alliances with the natural gas distribution industry. These announcements, released in a presentation to the Canadian Gas Association, were made despite prior commitments from the Ministry of Energy and Ontario Hydro that municipal electrical utilities would be consulted and involved in the design of any fuel substitution programs prior to their implementation."

Now, don't tell me they've been consulted. I asked the minister in the House today whether he would please hold this fuel substitution program until he had time to consult with the municipal electric utilities. He said, "No, I will not."

The London Public Utilities Commission goes on to say:

"In addition, programs must be shown to be economically viable in advance of instituting them. The announcements occurred against a background of widespread opposition to the provisions of Bill 118 by municipal utilities and several well-known interest groups. These announcements have also occurred without the Legislature's consent."

There was no discussion here in the Legislature about it. How am I supposed to represent the people in my riding? How do the backbenchers on the government side go home to their ridings and express, with any knowledge, the discussions that took place? When you get a utility like the London Public Utilities Commission, one of the foremost in the province, expressing this much concern, you can be sure there's a real problem there.

The other point is that London Public Utilities had established not a fuel-switching program but a fuel substitution program. That brings me to the point of reaching peak demand. Probably they don't want to even hear "peak demand." But I tell you, regardless of the economy, regardless of the recession, the peak is going to grow; 2.5% last year, while everything else was going the other way. What do you have to do? You have to have the generation to meet that 20-minute peak. If the Minister of Energy wants to take the responsibility, through Bill 118, in his directives, I can assure you he should be man enough to accept the accountability that goes with it, because you can't have one without the other. That's where we are.

The substitution program they're talking about is, first of all, their water heater program. Here's what they are saying: "Early commitments made by the Minister of Energy: 'I expect that in developing its approach, Ontario Hydro will consult closely'—this is in just developing its approach—"with its partners, the municipal utilities. I expect that fuel substitution programs supported by Ontario Hydro will stand up to economic scrutiny and will be in the best interests of the electrical system and the people of Ontario." That was by one of the ministers, the Honourable Will Ferguson.

The chairman of Ontario Hydro says, "Fuel substitution is viable only when electricity is not the most appropriate energy and where there are benefits to the customer." What's happening here is that a fuel substitution program—and we can go back to the water heaters—can actually bankrupt a utility. London Public Utilities could foresee that because of its interest in the size of the utility. The utilities in my riding are smaller. The towns are from 10,000 to 4,000 in population; six major towns across the riding. Of course, the rural municipalities in my riding, in the majority of cases, do not have access to this so-called fuel-switching program, because natural gas is not available there.

At one of the meetings we had in Chatham, we had the gas company saying—I'm not quoting here, but the impression I got from the meeting was that once fuel substitution became a fact, there would be money available to extend natural gas maybe a kilometre down the street to pick up a customer to give him the benefit of an alternative use. But, you see, the Ontario Energy Board limits the gas company, because when I'm paying my gas bill, I am protected against being part of a capital contribution for the extension of that line to pick up your house. An extension of a line has to have sufficient customers to make the capital investment a good investment. But really, it will be interesting to see. I honestly believe this government is considering, under this substitution program, making capital available to extend gas lines in Ontario.

1720

I might read this:

"Fuel substitution response to Bill 118. While these commitments were being made, Bill 118 was before the standing committee on resources development and the response was not favourable. The following 21 municipal utilities made submissions registering their concern about the premature adoption of fuel substitution programs: St Catharines Hydro, North York Hydro, Atikokan Hydro, Fort Frances PUC, Thunder Bay Hydro, Cochrane PUC, Sioux Lookout Hydro, Sudbury Hydro, Ottawa Hydro, Markham Hydro, York Hydro, Guelph Hydro, Waterloo North Hydro, Niagara Falls Hydro, Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro, Arthur PUC"—which my colleague the member for Wellington represents—"Mount Forest PUC"—also in his riding—"Toronto Hydro, Pickering Hydro, London PUC, Smiths Falls Hydro, Perth Public Utilities, Almonte," and it goes on.

How can a government say: "We're going to listen to the people and make amendments in accordance with their wishes. We're here to serve the people"? I don't like to have to say it, but I think this bill is very self-serving to the government. Again, I'm going to ask that they seriously consider withdrawing the bill.

It's not only what this government could do under that bill. I have many letters here relative to the same concerns, and more in the office.

My colleague the member for Ottawa South touched on the effect of the rates on the residential customer. The residential customers have no representation outside of the commissioners they've elected at home and on through to the Municipal Electrical Association. I believe the Municipal

Electrical Association, which represents 75% of the customers in Ontario, has one or two members on the board. They asked for better representation relative to the customers they serve, and as far as I know, to date there has been no positive reply from the government.

I can tell you, Mr Speaker, that the Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario is more than concerned. I understand they've met with the Ministry of Energy, because when they come to our meetings they are just frustrated. They cannot seem to get through the seriousness of what's happening. So they've formed a joint industry task force of the electrical industry in Ontario.

What is the joint industry task force? The joint industry task force on electricity supply in Ontario is made up of representatives from major associations sharing an important goal, ensuring a continued, reliable supply of electricity in Ontario. It represents people and organizations that depend on a reliable supply of electricity to serve the needs of electricity consumers and to produce goods and services.

The question arises, why are these people so concerned? Who are these people? The chairman of our caucus, myself and the member for Oakville South met with the Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario, we met with the Canadian Electrical Distributors Association Inc, we met with the Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers Association of Canada, we met with the Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario and we met with the allied trade union representative who is very concerned.

Perhaps I should read all the members of this industry task force, but I think it would be better if I concentrated on a little history. They say:

"Why are we concerned? During the late 1970s and early 1980s the North American system was overbuilt. However, that excess capacity is now being fully utilized to satisfy current demand and Ontario Hydro's predictions for how much electricity we will need in the future have been too low for the last several years. The joint industry task force strongly supports demand management and energy conservation, but fears Ontario Hydro has overestimated how much power we will be able to save this way and how quickly these savings can be realized." They're recognizing we can get more electricity from private generation and so on.

We had the opportunity to visit the Clarkson control centre on Lakeshore Boulevard; the province of Ontario is controlled basically from that centre. They have a backup near the airport, but that is the main control centre for the province. It would be well worth anyone's time to visit that centre so he could go back to his riding and at least explain what happens when you don't have the supply.

Let me go back again for a minute to that 20-minute peak. The off-peak power during a recession goes down and your revenue goes down, but that's the nature of the system. It's something like farming in that way, in that you invest a lot of money in machinery and you may only use it for two weeks to plant your crop in the spring of the year, but if you don't have the proper machinery for those two weeks and the proper equipment, then you're out of business. This is where we're going to end up with this utility.

Yes, I know you can bring on a gas-burning generator in three or four years, you can emit CO<sub>2</sub> into the air and this is all looked into in the major study done by Ontario Hydro. Of course, one of their reasons for sticking with nuclear was that it's an industry in itself. Nuclear generation is an industry in itself and it's the most benign to the environment. Anybody who wants to read up on the Candu system and visit Pickering station and become familiar with it will realize that all these fairy tales we hear about how dangerous it is and all that just aren't so.

I think it's the responsibility of me as a member and it's the responsibility of each member to get the best information he can and relay it to his riding, because what the electrical industry is worrying about is storage of the spent-fuel bundles. They shouldn't be worrying about that at all because Atomic Energy of Canada, in conjunction with other associations, has solved that problem. It's there; the solution is there just like that desk is there. We just have no need to move that far at the present moment because we have safe storage where it is. Not only that, but research and studies are going on to see if in these spent-fuel bundles we can't have more energy from them in different forms before we discard them completely.

1730

In killing the nuclear industry you're killing the progress of the province, because really what you see down the road is not a large base plant like Darlington or Pickering.

I'm not in a position to state here today in this Legislature or anywhere else the progress that Ontario Hydro has made relative to the use of uranium for energy in the province, but think back to the oil crisis when we were being told: "You'd better get off oil. Get on electricity because the cartel has had a meeting and they're going to cut off the province of Ontario. Oil's going to be very expensive." At that time it was a great sense of security to know that we did have expertise in the nuclear industry, that we did have a supply of uranium in Ontario and that we could, in fact, under such severe conditions, be self-sustaining in electrical energy.

Of course, as we've said many times, electrical energy is and was the engine that drove Ontario to be an industrialized, efficient province, ready to compete anywhere on the continent. We are, through the policies you plan—whether you want to call them control of Ontario Hydro or whatever—taking that away. People are coming to us every day and saying, "We've lost our competitive edge." How did we lose it? Your Hydro rates.

I would like to read for a moment from one of our meetings as we went across the province. This was from Ivaco Rolling Mills. Mr David Goldsmith is the vice-chairman of that company. You're probably familiar with the company, Mr Speaker. He says:

"In 1991 we purchased 315 million kilowatt-hours of electricity from Ontario Hydro. We are the largest customer in eastern Ontario....Also in 1991 we were awarded the Canadian Electrical Association's prestigious Energy Efficient Industry Award for the achievements we have made in peak load control and in becoming more energy efficient since our programs began in the late 1970s."

Would you please hear that, the members of the government? Since their program began in the late 1970s, and you're trying to sell this conservation program as something new? This is where you're going to be fooled, in the kilowatt-hours saved. You're beginning to realize today, as the press points out, that the revenue isn't coming in. You're not selling your product. The demand has gone down in conjunction with your conservation program. So what are you going to do: borrow some more money, as the government did, or go into a further deficit to operate?

That's the way the Treasurer started out with his new government. He thought all he had to do was go into a deficit position and the money would keep rolling in and he could maintain all the services with no cutbacks. The Premier and the Treasurer have found out much differently. We're going to find out the same thing at Ontario Hydro.

Mr Goldsmith states:

"Bill 118 fundamentally alters the way in which Ontario Hydro does business. It does this by providing for extensive government interference in the operations of the utility such that it almost becomes another government department rather than a crown corporation, and it redefines the cost of power to accommodate this interference."

He goes on to state:

"There are four elements of Bill 118 which I would like to address: the principle of power at cost, the change in responsibilities of the board of directors, the designation of the chief executive officer and fuel switching."

I think I have covered most of these, Mr Speaker, except perhaps the chief executive officer. You know yourself that to have any long-term planning in a corporation you need a chief executive officer who is not a political appointment. When the former minister, the Honourable Jenny Carter, brought in this bill on June 5, 1991, I said then that it was a very dark day for Ontario Hydro. Those words may prove to be more than you would like to think they are if these policies continue. The whole drive then was that the existing board of directors had appointed a president and chief executive officer. But the fear of the government was that this chief executive officer would not be cooperative enough in placing a moratorium on nuclear energy.

It's sad that the whole thing centres on that, but it's a fact. To go on to say Ontario Hydro is out of control and it's time we got control—before I go any further, I would like to say that Ontario Hydro is being misrepresented in that there are 312 utilities across this province that supply approximately 75% of the needs of the province. As I said earlier, all these utilities have elected officials.

To say that Ontario Hydro is a monster is absolutely ridiculous. A monster is just a figment of your imagination about something you don't understand; that's really why you're using the word. But if you thought about it, I thought at first that was what my colleague was describing earlier this afternoon. Perhaps it referred to the previous government—I'm not sure—but it was entertaining anyhow.

This gentleman, the president of his company, has very real concerns. With your permission I would just like to read:

"Ontario already has the third-highest power rates in Canada. It is not a cheap province for electricity, and it has not been since 1984." What does that tell you?

**Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview):** It tells me it's almost six o'clock.

**Mr Jordan:** That's good; you can at least tell the time. I have a problem there.

Take note: "At our facility we pay over 18% more for electricity than our sister" plant pays in Cartersville, Georgia. "They do not have a sweetheart deal with their power utility. They are buying power on a published rate and their rate is firm for five years."

This is important: "We are aware that the government has agreed to limit any policy directives that are issued to Ontario Hydro to the corporation's exercise of its duties under the act. This, however, does not provide us with any comfort since the government itself will make the decision as to whether the directive is within the corporation's mandate." Think about that: You're trying to appease the municipal electrical associations by saying, "We won't go outside the directive." This vice-president has studied all that. This is what he's saying.

You're not convincing the people and you're not convincing large industry. They realize now that should this Bill 118 not be withdrawn this afternoon, they're going to have to look very seriously at where they operate and where they expand their plants. We can blame it on whatever we like, but trade on the North American continent now is part of global trade. It's not only free trade; it's almost global. I can tell you this is an industry that has worked hard since 1970 to modernize its plant to have as efficient an operation as it can and it's still having a great problem.

1740

The other point the Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario has asked me to touch on is the operation, maintenance and administration budget of Ontario Hydro. Do you know that they just recently appointed 13 new directorships in Ontario Hydro? Here we are in a declining economy, a recession, and here we have a utility which is not connecting many new customers, which is losing a lot of the good customers it did have through plant closures, and, would you believe it, it has announced a reorganization and it's going to have 13 new directorships. Guess what the salary is going to be? It can go up to \$154,000 per year. They haven't decided yet what the rates are going to be, but that's the parameter they have to work with.

When you have a right as a government and you have your board of directors over there, I think instead of facing 8%, 10%, 12% rate increases, we should be facing a zero rate increase. If Ontario Hydro makes up its mind through attrition and early pension, it can reduce a good number of high-salaried people and it will cause hardship to no one. I'm sure many of the employees I refer to would welcome such a policy by Ontario Hydro to have these people phased out. Let's face the facts as we see them in Ontario today. We are in a recession. Were the number of employees reduced at Ontario Hydro last year? No, they were increased

by approximately 2,000. While revenue falls, we increase our numbers.

The OMNA budget I referred to is operation, maintenance and administration. For many of us members, especially from the rural, what we see from our Ontario Hydro offices in the rural appears to be a fairly efficient, well-managed service. We get excellent service, we don't have power interruptions, if we do have them they're quickly restored and we have a good level of energy. We have good voltage. We could have computers in our homes out in the rural. We could enjoy that at the present time.

But, as I said earlier, what's going to happen? People like my friend the member for Renfrew North will be able to enjoy it, but certainly a lot of my people in Lanark-Renfrew in the lower-income brackets will end up with perhaps one light, which is fine. My colleague the member for Sarnia should recall our meeting at Chatham where the elderly retired Hydro employee, a line superintendent, who was over 80 years of age, came in the afternoon and came back in the evening. I congratulate the Chairman for giving him the opportunity that evening, although he wasn't on the agenda, to have some input into the record, which he did.

I would like to repeat the phrase he remembered, which was "Live better electrically." With his experience in Hydro camps and across the province and in rural Ontario, certainly he was in a good position to speak for "Live better electrically." That phrase is going to be gone. It's a reality still, but we just won't be able to afford it. Oh yes, certain incomes will have it and they'll be able to pay the rate that's going to be charged in order that Ontario Hydro can continue to operate and pay the interest on its debt.

I just want to touch lightly on the seniors in my riding. I received several letters from them. I'll mention a customer in Perth, Robert Trombley, who built a beautiful, all-electric, Gold Medallion home, radiant heat in the ceilings, no heating equipment in sight and a big item in those days. You were presented with a nice plaque for having the foresight to have a Gold Medallion home. Ontario Hydro led the field in establishing building specs for residents. At that time it was six inches of insulation in the attic and three in the walls, and we'd have two inches to two and a half feet below grade.

You know what happened, Mr Speaker? The gas furnaces at that time couldn't function in that home. They weren't the efficient gas unit they have today, but they couldn't function in that home because there wasn't enough incoming air through leakage around windows, doors and so on to feed the oxygen to the fire to keep the furnace going. What happened was that the building code was amended and you had to put an outside supply of air to keep those units going.

Of course I don't believe Ontario Hydro ever got much credit for leading the field in that area, but the reason they did it was that the energy at that time was 25% more expensive than any other energy, gas or oil. But the people still wanted it, and you're going to see that today. There's going to be a certain number of people who see an electrically heated home as the Cadillac of the system.

Now what Bob Trombley is saying to me is, "Here I am, no duct work, cable heat in the ceiling, natural gas

going down the street, and I'm going to ask my neighbour to help me pay for it on his hydro bill to put in duct work so I can transfer to gas." It's not very sensible policy to be putting on to the people of my riding or anyone in Ontario.

I have a similar letter on behalf of the seniors from Arnprior from a Mr Wilfred Heckey. He's going on to say basically the same thing: "The enclosed writeup is to confirm my opinion that the time has come to take measures to suppress the anticipated rate increases, as forecast by Ontario Hydro for 1993."

Here they are on a fixed income, these pensioners, and we've had a 22% increase on an \$800-a-year heating bill in the last two years. So you take that into consideration. I think Ontario Hydro, like every other business or corporation, through better management is going to have to absorb the cost rather than just pass it on to the people.

If you're elected at the municipal level of government, you don't have an opposition party, as you well know, Mr Speaker; your opposition is the people. They assess your policies, your actions and they stand just outside your door. You're going to meet them at home and they're going to come and visit you on a one-to-one basis at your council meeting.

So I say to you that if you're going to have power through Bill 118, please take into consideration management of the utility in such a way that these rate increases are not required; and this thing of going to a reserve fund every time you need some money is as bad as creating a deficit.

For the record, during the hearings, as we went around the province we had different groups coming before us, and they all seemed to have the same story. I'm sure someone rehearsed it and said, "Show up because we want you to tell this story." You know what they were telling us? They were telling us that it cost \$50,000 a kilowatt to install electric heat in a residence. On that basis they were trying to convince us that it was not a good investment, that it should be discontinued and that the utility was subsidizing those homes because of that price per kilowatt.

1750

I questioned where they got their figures, and what happened? They came back with quite a revision.

"You asked about the cost of installing electric heat in Ontario homes. The most up-to-date figures are contained in Ontario Hydro's response to interrogatory 4.7.26 from the Coalition of Environmental Groups at the Environmental Assessment Board's hearing into the demand-supply plan. The response, which is attached, estimates that to supply electric space heating to a 15-kilowatt furnace in an Ontario home would require about \$7,000" and could range up to \$11,000 depending on the net capital cost and the source of generation.

We found out \$7,000 was the actual figure, not \$50,000. So these people on the committee were sitting back with their hands folded, smiling at this \$50,000 because it made electric heat look like not a good investment for the utility.

"Since that response was prepared, Ontario Hydro has updated its overall forecasts. We published these changes in the DS/P Update released on January 15.... The Update foresees the possibility of capacity surpluses through much

of the next decade. This is a change from the outlook when the original plan was published in December.... As a result of this change, the incremental cost for the system to supply space heating load will be different" even from that estimate. "In particular, the short-term system incremental capital cost of supplying the space heating load is likely to be lower than previously foreseen."

So I say to the government that I would give direction to Ontario Hydro. You picture a curve, your peak and your valley power. I would give instructions to Ontario Hydro to install the automatic equipment that London PUC is using on its water heaters in these all-electric homes and have the special rate from 11 pm till 6 am. Of course, when the sun is down and there's no cooking going on generally in the house and there isn't the heat from the people because they normally have retired, that is when the heat loss is highest for the residents. So that is when the highest consumption is going to be used to heat that house, during those hours when the sun is down.

Then we would have revenue. We would have the generation to meet the 20 minutes, but we would have revenue. Instead of just calling it spinning reserve, over and above the spinning reserve, and as part of it, we could use that revenue at a lesser cost to give these people what we can refer to, as London PUC did for the water heaters, not as "load substitution" but "load shifting," which means to have it on the off-peak time.

This would be managing the utility. This would be doing something for the people of Ontario. This would be doing something for the existing customers who have their Gold Medallion homes, who are seniors, who recognize electric energy as the most safe and clean they can have in the house. Regardless of how you go back to its generation, whether it's hydraulic, steam by coal, steam by oil or steam from uranium, it still is most benign to the environment.

If we want to see Ontario progress, I suggest that this government, if it insists on Bill 118, use it to the best advantage if it feels the board of directors isn't capable of running the corporation, which to me is an insult, to think that the Ministry of Energy and the government have more knowhow than the people over at Ontario Hydro, the research department, the environmental section, the engineering division.

I don't think you gave any thought to what you think the requirement here was. I think you moved too quickly and too severely and you've given the government too much power. Whether you exercise it or not, God knows what can happen in the future, because you have amended the Power Corporation Act. I don't think it's right, if this bill goes through, to refer any longer to Ontario Hydro as a corporation. It is nothing more than a department of the government, a commission of the government, and the people might as well know that.

I think really, as my colleague the member for Ottawa South stated and as we stated at the end of the hearings after going across the province, the Minister of Energy has to understand that there's more than electricity in the province of Ontario relative to conservation. He's the Minister of Energy for the province, of all energies, and perhaps he

should cast his eye around to some of the other energies as far as conservation goes.

The other energies are all going to benefit from these conservation programs. If I were to put in natural gas, I would have the benefit of the conservation program paid for by my neighbour on his hydro bill, so I use less natural gas. I'm going to help pay him to convert to natural gas. I'm going to help pay for him to extend the natural gas line down the road. All that's going to appear on my hydro bill.

In closing, the other fear is that this government has already—and I understand they have future plans to add some social costs. Some social programs will be hidden on my hydro bill.

**Mr Huget:** Get real. Tell the truth.

**Mr Jordan:** You've already done it. You've already done it at Elliot Lake. You certainly did. You've been out trying to defend this light program that you spent \$7 million on, and the most you could get out of it was \$4 million, even by your own calculations.

Do you know what they did, Mr Speaker? They sent these bulbs across the province not properly wrapped. When they arrived at the homes, the filament was broken. They might have lasted for two days and the bulb was gone. Anyone who would send that out into the rural mail boxes, just like your newspaper is delivered—it arrives, bang. It's not packed, only in a plastic bag. Now how much thought went into that program? Certainly there was none that went into how it was going to be delivered.

If the program was that good, why didn't they send their Ontario Hydro rep from the office? Yes, it would have cost them money, but at the same time, he could have done an energy audit while he was there. They didn't have to be delivered in two weeks. If it was a good program, it could have taken three months and we could have covered the province with Energy people coming to the home explaining to the people why the bulb was there and how to use it and taking an assessment of what was already being used.

I say to this government, please take a few minutes, take a few days and assess your conservation program. The Minister of Energy told us in estimates in 1990 that they would demand from Ontario Hydro, every three months, a net amount of energy saved and he would see that it was reported to the Legislature. The president at that time said that would be very difficult to measure, because you're not dealing with furniture; you're dealing with people.

To measure demand power in industry is very simple, but to measure the efficiency of a conservation program on a residential base is very difficult. At peak load time, energy conservation or not, when the couple comes home from work, they're going to use it. They know it's peak time, but if you give them some incentive in their rates they'll probably think otherwise. Education is what we need, not more legislation.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Villeneuve):** It now being 6 of the clock, this House will stand adjourned until tomorrow, June 4, at 10 am.

The House adjourned at 1800.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber Etobicoke-Rexdale	Henderson, D. James Phillip, Hon/L'hon Ed	L ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest Fort William Fort York	Stockwell, Chris McLeod, Lyn Marchese, Rosario	PC L ND	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey Guelph	Murdoch, Bill Fletcher, Derek	PC ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre Halton North/-Nord	Sullivan, Barbara Duignan, Noel	L ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est Hamilton Mountain	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Miclash, Frank Wilson, Gary	L ND	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener Kitchener-Wilmot	Ferguson, Will Cooper, Mike	ND ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew Lawrence	Jordan, W. Leo Cordiano, Joseph	PC L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaitre, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	
			government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessinger, Paul	ND	
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
			Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	
Sudbury East/-Est	<b>Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	<b>Cooke, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	
York South/-Sud	<b>Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

**COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE**

**STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS**

**Administration of justice/Administration de la justice**

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow  
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli,  
Mike Cooper Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney,  
Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman,  
Paul Wessinger, David Winninger  
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

**Estimates/Budgets des dépenses**

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Margaret Marland  
Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson,  
Robert Frankford, Wayne Lessard, Lawrence O'Connor, Anthony  
Perruzza, David Ramsay, Gregory S. Sorbara  
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

**Finance and economic affairs/  
Finances et affaires économiques**

Chair/Président: Ron Hansen  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Kimble Sutherland  
Members/Membres: Elinor Caplan, Gary Carr, David Christopherson,  
Norm Jamison, Monte Kwinter, Gerry Phillips, Norman W. Sterling,  
Brad Ward, Margery Ward, Jim Wiseman  
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

**General government/Affaires gouvernementales**

Chair/Président: Michael A. Brown  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Carman McClelland  
Members/Membres: Ted Arnott, Will Ferguson, Derek Fletcher,  
Margaret H. Harrington, Randy R. Hope, George Mammoliti, Rosario  
Marchese, Bill Murdoch, Dianne Poole, John Sola  
Clerk/Greffière: Deborah Deller

**Government agencies/Organismes gouvernementaux**

Chair/Président: Robert W. Runciman  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Allan K. McLean  
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Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Bernard C. Grandmaître, Rosario  
Marchese, Chris Stockwell, Daniel Waters, Jim Wiseman  
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

**Legislative Assembly/Assemblée législative**

Chair/Président: Noel Duignan  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mike Farnan  
Members/Membres: Mike Cooper, Paul R. Johnson, Margaret Marland,  
Irene Mathysen, Carman McClelland, Gord Mills, Gilles E. Morin,  
Stephen Owens, Barbara Sullivan, Noble Villeneuve  
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

**Ombudsman/Ombudsman**

Chair/Président: Mark Morrow  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Christel Haeck  
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Dennis Drainville, Noel Duignan,  
D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Miclash, Bill Murdoch,  
Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Elizabeth Witmer  
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

**Public accounts/Comptes publics**

Chair/Président: Remo Mancini  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Joseph Cordiano  
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Duignan, Robert Frankford, Christel Haeck, Pat Hayes, Paul R. Johnson,  
Lawrence O'Connor, Gregory S. Sorbara, David Tilson  
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

**Regulations and private bills/  
Règlements et projets de loi privés**

Chair/Président: Drummond White  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Ellen MacKinnon  
Members/Membres: George Dadamo, Ron Eddy, Mike Farnan,  
Ron Hansen, W. Leo Jordan, Gord Mills, Tony Ruprecht, John Sola,  
Kimble Sutherland, Jim Wilson  
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

**Resources development/Développement des ressources**

Chair/Président: Peter Kormos  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Daniel Waters  
Members/Membres: Sean G. Conway, George Dadamo, Bob Huget,  
W. Leo Jordan, Paul Klopp, Dalton J.P. McGuinty, Sharon Murdock,  
Steven Offer, David Turnbull, Len Wood  
Clerk/Greffier: Harold Brown

**Social development/Affaires sociales**

Chair/Président: Charles Beer  
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler  
Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin,  
Irene Mathysen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White,  
Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer  
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE/COMITÉ EXTRAORDINAIRE**

**Parliamentary precinct/Enceinte parlementaire**

Co-Chair/Coprésident: David Warner  
Co-Chair/Coprésident: Noel Duignan  
Members/Membres: Dianne Cunningham, Remo Mancini,  
Kimble Sutherland  
Clerk/Greffier: Smirle Forsyth



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